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Bath Life

EDITOR'S LETTER / ISSUE 292 / 24 JULY – 7 AUGUST 2015



60

KITCHEN SYNC

Five local interiors experts give us their top tips for the heart of the home



Summer lovin'

We might occasionally be guilty of forgetting how lucky we are to live in this incredible city. The work/life balance can get suddenly skewed in the former's favour, despite the allure of the many sunny parks and beer gardens.

Don't worry though, our friends and distant relatives dotted around the country haven't forgotten that Bath offers the best kind of life in the UK, and it's quite likely that they'll think about turning up over the next few months, thus offering us all an important reality check. So in preparation for such an event, we've got some ideas on how to be a tour guide, and entertain your visitors, from page 22.

And because you can never have enough options, the new Jane Austen exhibition at the Victoria Art Gallery is another hot ticket for locals and tourists alike. Did you know she nearly went to prison when she was here? Us, neither. Turn to page 40, for the full lowdown.

Also big news since last issue is that Bath's biggest hotel project in decades – the Gainsborough Bath Spa – has finally opened its doors. Never ones to drag our feet on a new opening, you can read all about the 'dining without borders' experience, on page 46.

We hope that once you've worked your way through that little lot and all the other shopping, interiors, business and property pages, you'll be reminded why Bath is truly great, at any time of year.

Kate Authers, Editor

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BathLife

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How to be a tour guide

Summer calendar filled with visiting guests? Here's what to do with them, from the blindingly obvious to the more niche...



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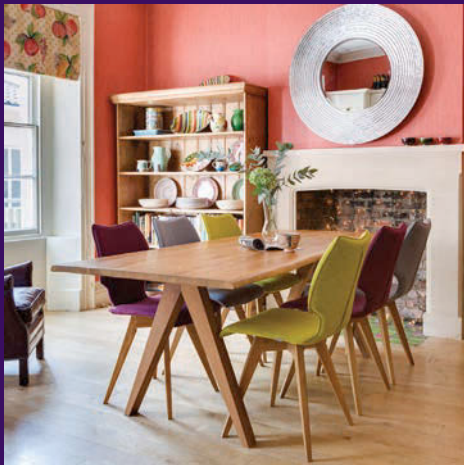
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MEET THE TEAM

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About MediaClash

MediaClash is a Bath-based publisher and creative agency, publishing a portfolio of City Magazines, celebrating the best of local living, and the foodie magazine, *Crumbs* (www.crumbsmag.com).

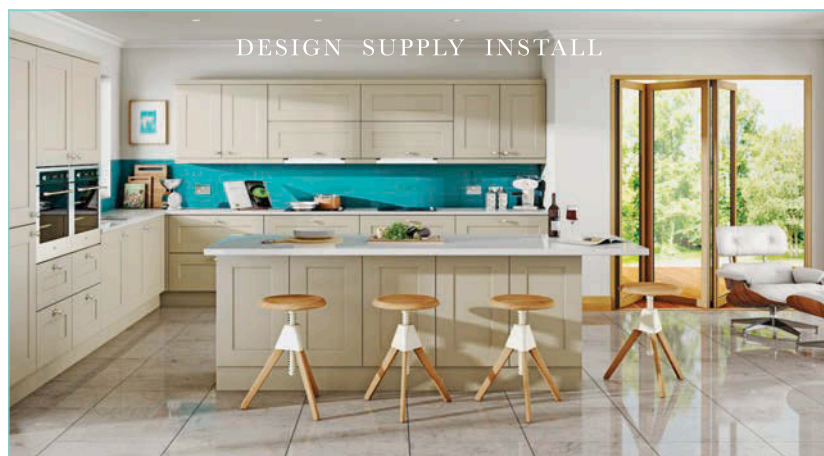
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Digital and Content Agency We also create and publish content marketing for clients. Our work ranges from the design and build of websites to devising company magazines.

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On the cover
The built-in b3 kitchen by hobsons choice – for more see the feature on p60



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SPOTLIGHT

BATH: ITS LIFE AND TIMES

The installation takes the form of a bohemian banquet featuring bronze characters



ART

UNEXPECTED SUCCESSES

A local sculptor has been selected for a major showcase at the EDS Gallery in Edinburgh from 9 to 30 August.

Liz Watts' work is part of an installation entitled *Unexpected Excesses*, a masked bohemian banquet set around a table and featuring a cornucopia of bronze, couture embroidery, porcelain, wearable art, papier mâché and body adornments. Liz was invited to return to the gallery after successful exhibitions there during 2014.

"In this installation I take unashamed advantage of my talented friends and family," says Liz, who has collaborated with textile artist Jan Knibbs and poet-in-residence Dawn Gorman on the project. "Bianca the harpist is my daughter, the storyteller Francis Maxey is my brother-in-law, and the others I met on assorted creative ventures," she explains. "At the table, visitors may well find artists, poets, musicians, composers. There will be spaces at the table where they can pass a little time, too."

Liz has also been given two short slots on the Royal Mile stages at The Edinburgh Fringe Festival on 12 and 13 August, where visitors can see her and her mobile installation.

For more: www.lizwatts.co.uk



Mhairi Spence, Freyja Prentice, Francesca Summers, Kate French and Samantha Murray

EVENTS

MAKING THE GRADE

Pentathlon GB has announced the squad that will be competing at the European Championships in Bath next month.

London 2012 silver medallist Samantha Murray, Kate French and Youth Olympic Games silver medallist Francesca Summers will make up the women's team, though it's yet to be decided whether the fourth spot will be filled by Freyja Prentice – who is returning to the sport after a period of injury – or 2012 Olympian Mhairi Spence.

The men's team will be made up of multiple world cup winner and world record holder Jamie Cooke, double Olympian Nick Woodbridge, Joseph Choong and Tom Toolis.

The event, taking place from 18 to 23 August at the University of Bath's Sports Training Village, will be a key competition for pentathletes aiming to compete at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, where only two athletes per gender per nation are able to compete. "Everyone has pushed

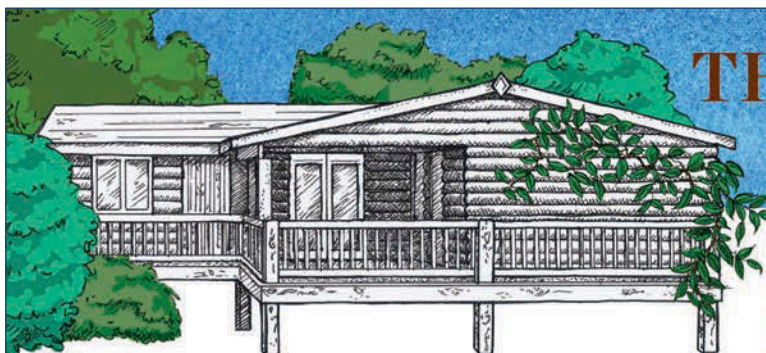
incredibly hard this year, especially with the Europeans in mind," said performance director, Jan Bartu. "Not only are the championship titles up for grabs but this will also be one of the best opportunities for the team to try and achieve the Olympic qualifying standard."

"Bath is the home of the GB team so they will be competing on home soil. This is only the second time the event has been held in the UK, so it's a rare opportunity for the pentathletes to be cheered on by so many British supporters."

Over 100 athletes from more than 20 countries will be competing in the fencing, swimming, show jumping, shooting and running, all in one day. The venue will also include a bespoke spectators' village offering family entertainment, and the chance to try out some of the disciplines.

Tickets are priced from £6 with under 18s welcome for £1 each.

For more: www.pentathlongb.org/euros2015



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HISTORY

HOME OF OUR DELIGHT

Rook Lane Arts Trust has received a grant of £46,800 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to research the impact of the First World War on the village of Mells. 'Home of our Delight', which refers to the inscription on the village war memorial, will explore the names and stories of the men remembered in the inscription, and their family, social and cultural connections at home.

Alongside gamekeepers, gardeners and colliery workers from Mells and neighbouring Vobster, these men included Edward, last son and heir of the Horner family and Mells estate, and his brother-in-law Raymond Asquith, son of the First World War prime minister. Mells, through the Horner family, welcomed artists, writers, politicians and diarists of the time, including Edwin Lutyens and JM Barrie among others, before, during and after the war. As a result, the village retains a unique archive of

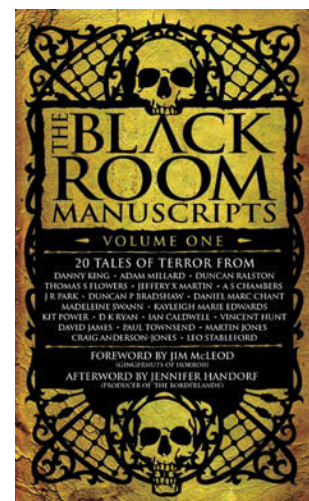
war-related correspondence, diaries and estate documents providing a fascinating glimpse of life both at the front and at home.

These associations also resulted in some of the finest First World War memorials in Somerset, created by artists and designers then at the peak of their careers. Home of our Delight will also explore the process of commissioning these monuments via archives.

The grant will enable Rook Lane Arts to work with local organisations, volunteers and local schools and colleges throughout 2015 and 2016 to investigate the stories, share local knowledge, and also learn new heritage skills in the process.

The two year project will culminate in an exhibition, real and digital heritage trail and online archive in September 2016.

For more: www.rooklanearts.org.uk



BOOKS

LITTLE HORRORS

A Bath indie horror author and co-founder – along with locals Duncan P Bradshaw and JR Park – of independent publishers Sinister Horror Company, is organising a charity anthology.

The Black Room Manuscripts will include 20 stories from 20 experienced authors and talented newcomers, including BAFTA winner Danny King, Adam Millard, Duncan Ralston and Thomas S Flowers, with all proceeds going to animal charity Blue Cross UK.

"*The Black Room Manuscripts* is a hugely personal anthology to me," said creator Daniel Marc Chant. "It's a place for authors of genre, old and new, to showcase their talent and compile an amazing assembly of stories for all horror fans. It's also a fantastic opportunity to help a wonderful cause and improve the lives of countless unwanted animals across the UK." The book is now available for order on Amazon.

For more:

www.sinisterhorrorcompany.com

Martin Wade, Linda Boss, Pamela Lea, Sally Somers, Martin Bax, Raymond, Earl of Oxford and Asquith, Jo Plimmer, Sue Bucklow, Andrew Davies and Gavin Ball



PHOTO © MERVYN CLINGAN – TAKING PICTURES

CYCLING

PEDAL POWER

Nearly 1,000 cyclists took part in the fourth annual Bike Bath earlier this month, making it one of the largest city cycling events in the South West.

The event, which enjoyed glorious sunshine, was well attended by cyclists of all ages – including some as young as five – taking part in one of the four distances. Over 30 local businesses got involved in some way too, including HPH Property, Cyclescheme, Carter

Jonas, Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios, John's Bikes, BMW, Sally Lunn's, as well as riders from the local area and all over the UK who came to join in the fun.

Participants received a medal post-ride before heading to the Bath Ales marquee at the Rec to enjoy festivities including massages from Bath's Physio Impulse, and a hot meal provided by the 1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment.

For more: www.bikebath.co.uk

Cyclists of all ages took part, choosing one of four routes





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Eva Janosova
and Josie Ryan

WILD THINGS

Daniel Start, best-selling author of *Wild Swimming*, officially opened the new lakes at Glove Factory Studios earlier this month, giving a brief talk about the wonders and delights of wild swimming. Guests also enjoyed a barbecue as well as some wild swimming of their own

Photos by Betty Bhandari
www.bettybhandari.com



James and
Gemma Yates
with Michelle and
Hugh Campbell



Ellie McArdle and
Ashish Rohmetra



Miriam Deas,
Tracy Holder
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MATCH FUNDING

The Novia Mallards took on the Novia Global Trotters for the fifth annual Twenty20 cricket match at Bath Cricket Ground, in front of a 250-strong crowd earlier this month – raising over £15,000 for Bath Rugby Foundation. Guests also enjoyed a charity auction hosted by ex-Bath Rugby prop David Flatman, a raffle, an inflatable fun zone, a surfing simulator, a pamper massage tent, a Samba band, children's face painting and a barbecue and tiki bar

Photos by Jeni Meade
www.jeni-meade-photography.com



Winners: The Novia Mallards



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Lauren Mills



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SUMMER CELEBRATIONS

Handelsbanken held its annual midsummer party at the Holburne last month. Guests enjoyed fine weather in the gardens of the museum, where a maypole had been installed, and nibbles including chocolate-dipped strawberries. Female guests were issued with a flower pin to celebrate the start of summer in the traditional Swedish way, and all were welcome to a Holburne tour, too

Photos by Beata Cosgrove
www.beatacosgrovephotography.com



Nick Shipp and
Neil Harbury



Lily, Caroline and
Viki Ambrose



Rachel and
Sean Badrick



Stuart Clark, Ray Burton
and Helen Clark



Val Newman and John Candy

GIRLS ON THE GO

North Hairdressing held a special 'how to' charity fundraiser called Girls on the Go in June, in aid of Prostate Cancer UK. Guests at the event learnt how to create their own vintage victory rolls, ballet buns, beach hair and glamorous up-dos, while sister beauty bar The Manicure Suite ran a series of 20-minute beauty sessions

Photos by Paolo Ferla
www.ferlapaolo.com



Mathilde Heather
and Jade Newman



Laura Wilkins and
Jade Chivers



Ellie
Marshall



Mimi, Edith and
Phoebe Li Ross

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ON THE MOVE

The Organic Cake Company celebrated their expansion and move to new kitchens with an opening drinks and cake party in Timsbury recently. Customers including Society Café, Chandos Deli, Metropolitan Cafe, Colonna & Small's, The Scallop Shell and Green Park Tavern were in attendance, along with those that have helped the company along the way – such as Marshfield Bakery and The White Hart, Widcombe

Photos by Jeni Meade
www.jeni-meade-photography



Sophie Collins
and Ben White



Rosie and
Jill Boyd



Jenny Langford, Jess Langford-Snape
and Angela Langford



Giuseppe Tarallo, Lucy Tarallo-Fox
and Liz Tarallo

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

In June, Bath and North East Somerset Council hosted a reception at the Roman Baths to mark the launch of the Roman Baths Foundation – an independent charitable company aiming to raise funds for conservation and education work at the Roman Baths



Susan Sheppard and
Denise Tavernor



Sam Hughes, David James
and Councillor Martin Veal



Dr Jo Farrar



Maeve Hamilton-Hercod,
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Peter was honoured to be a speaker at the Kuoni Summit Conference recently at which World Market Travel was awarded the Top Kuoni Partnership Store Award for their services of representing them in Bath.

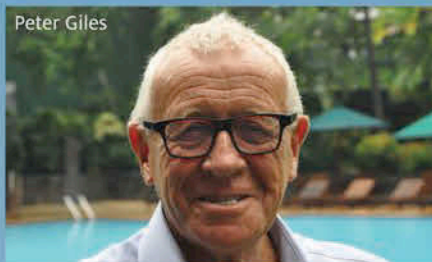
This was Peter's second visit to Sri Lanka and this time experienced more of the country including a wildlife safari and Sigiriya Rock.

Sri Lanka offers such a variety of holidays including whale watching, beaches, white water rafting, treks, jeep safaris, bicycle tours and escorted tours with your own personal driver or coach.

Tim Giles has also attended a major travel exhibition in Melbourne Australia checking up and researching on new products to enable World Market Travel to be a major player in travel to Australia. Peter also recently visited Canada doing the same thing.

Peter and Tim have now had their independent travel agency in Bath for over 30 years and arranged hundreds of

Peter Giles



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DAVID FLATMAN

A BALANCED APPROACH

Flats explains how he plans to split his time during summer holiday season

As summer arrives I find myself staring at a very manly dilemma. By 'manly' I don't mean butch, I mean lazy. Allow me to set the scene: I walk in looking haggard from a tough dog walk in the sun, and Mrs F hands me a piece of paper. "You need to decide how much childcare you want during the summer holidays," she says, in an Oscar-worthy display of domestic passive aggression.

The piece of paper, it turns out, is a booking form for the local nursery who run a school holiday club for children with working parents. Or, in my case, lazy parents. All I need to do is tick a box next to every date that I'd like to send our little schoolgirl in to mix with her friends and eat quiche, and I'm free to roam.

Now, please don't misinterpret my mindset here. I love being with my kids. In fact, it's my favourite way to spend time by a very long way (as long as we're eating) and I've noticed that unquestionably one's relationship with one's kids is hugely determined by how much real time we spend together. By that I mean time spent doing the mundane stuff. The school runs, the making of pasta, the opening of yoghurts, the brushing of teeth. This is the real stuff and it's what makes a parent a parent.

But it's also incredibly dull after a while. There, I said it. I expect that most of the male readers among you will be nodding inside, while most of the females will be outwardly disgusted by my frankness, but secretly also nodding inside.

Anyway, I love it! But I need a break too and, with Mrs F working far more than me over the summer, I now have a very important decision to make. I want to be with my kids all the time, but I also want to walk my dogs more than four hundred metres without having to carry one child and try to convince the other that she doesn't hate dog walking. I want to go to the gym and not have to set up children in the corner with an iPad, stopping them wandering

through clanging dumbbells every six minutes. I want to watch *Orange is the New Black* during the day. I want to kip on the sofa in the garden, surrounded by out-of-date car magazines.

In short, I want the kids around but I also want to be selfish. Mrs F just does not seem to have this gene. She never even considers putting herself first and she continues to astonish me. However, I am not her and I need to strike a balance in the coming months.

Both kids will spend some time in nursery or holiday club. Partly because it suits me, partly because it's good for them to socialise and absorb differing stimuli. But I won't throw them behind bars for the summer. No, I'll cook with them, leg it through water sprinklers, visit the seaside, and make camps under the trees.

We'll have a lovely summer together, but I also intend to reserve some down time. Hopefully the mums respect my honesty... **BL**

David Flatman is an ex-Bath and England Rugby star turned TV pundit and rent-o-mic. Follow him on Twitter @davidflatman

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HOW TO BE A
TOUR GUIDE

The GUEST LIST

Obviously everyone wants to visit Bath – the downside is that you may end up spending the entire summer having to entertain visitors. So at the risk of stating the obvious, here's where to go and what to see when they all turn up with their return FGW tickets in hand

By VICTORIA PALMER

Is there any better spot for a picnic? You can also soak up the history at No.1 Royal Crescent museum

“

IT MUST BE
HIGH-FIVES
ALL ROUND AT
VISIT BATH
WHEN EACH
NEW PLAUDIT
ROLLS IN

”

Yep, it's starting to get embarrassing. In recent years, Bath's topped so many national polls and won so many accolades that we're starting to feel bad for all the other cities. Best place to live for families. Best student experience. Most desirable urban location for buyers outside of London. Best Christmas market, and so it goes on.

It must be high-fives all round at Visit Bath when each new plaudit rolls in, but for the rest of us, there's a downside.

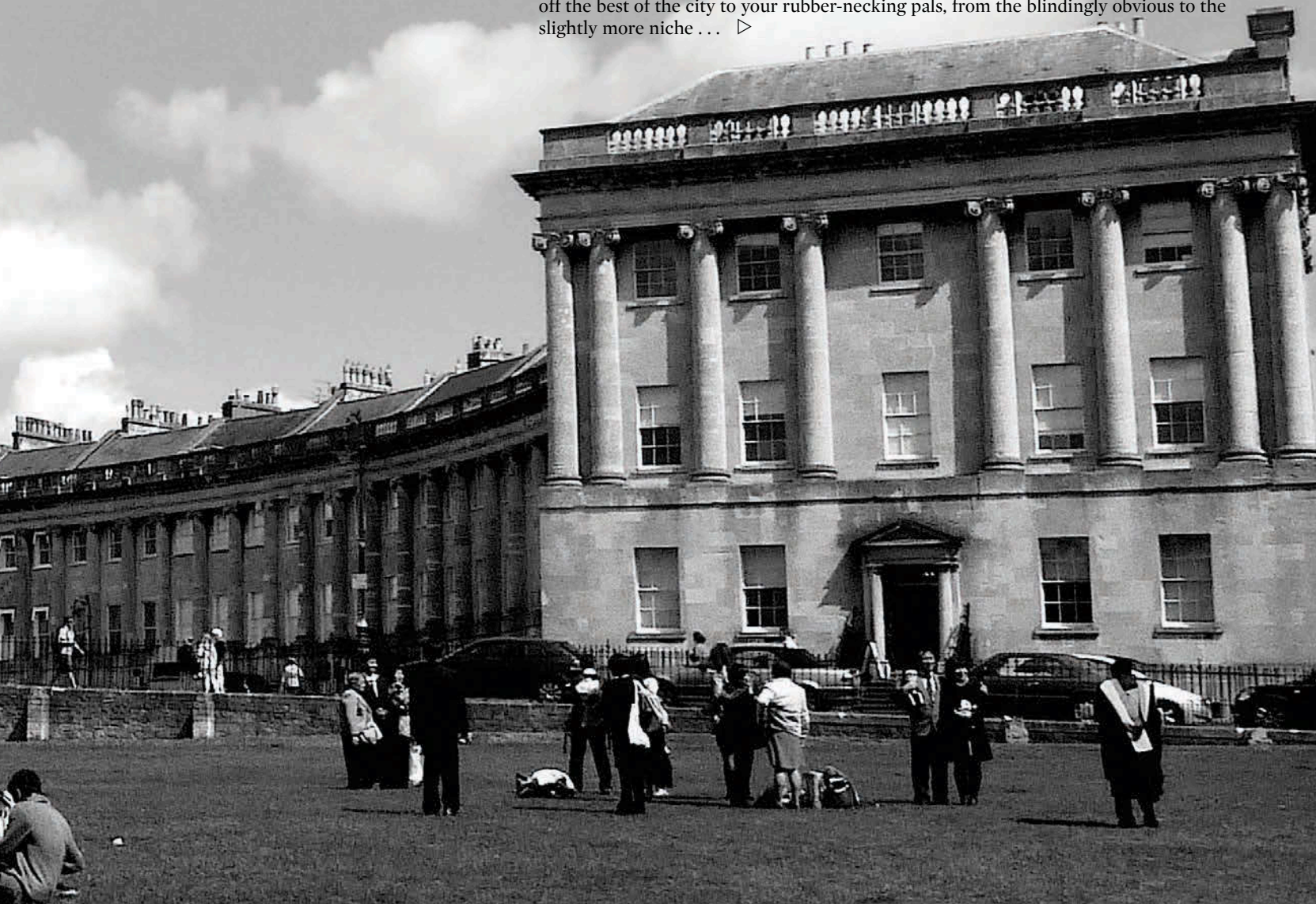
Our lives are no longer our own. Suddenly, pals and distant relatives from all over the country want to know what exactly makes Bath so much more exciting than, say, Swindon, and we're finding that our spare bedrooms are booked out between now and October.

A few of them will come trailing unrealistic expectations that you'll have to shoot down at once. Nicholas Cage, Johnny Depp and John Cleese *don't* live in town anymore. We've *never* seen Kate and the kids wandering around the Royal Crescent (however, we have seen Kylie, James Corden and U2). And sadly, *no*, Bath Boules isn't an event that runs every weekend.

But you'll soon turn those frowns upside down as you wow them with all the incredible stuff that Bath does offer: obvious stuff such as the architecture and the Thermae Spa; quirky visual arts happenings, and the far-too-many-to-keep-up-with festivals.

The best thing about having to show friends around the city is that it forces you to look a bit more closely at all the buildings and places that you take for granted. You may have walked past the Abbey hundreds of times, but when did you last take a tower tour to see the city from a whole new seagull's perspective? Not once, we're betting.

At the risk of preaching to the converted, here are a few suggestions for showing off the best of the city to your rubber-necking pals, from the blindingly obvious to the slightly more niche . . . ▸



RUMOUR HAS IT THAT YTL HOTELS SPENT £35 MILLION ON THE GAINSBOROUGH

Nip in for a gin at the bar or test out the 'dining without borders' experience at Johann Lafer at the Gainsborough

THE ALLURE OF THE NEW

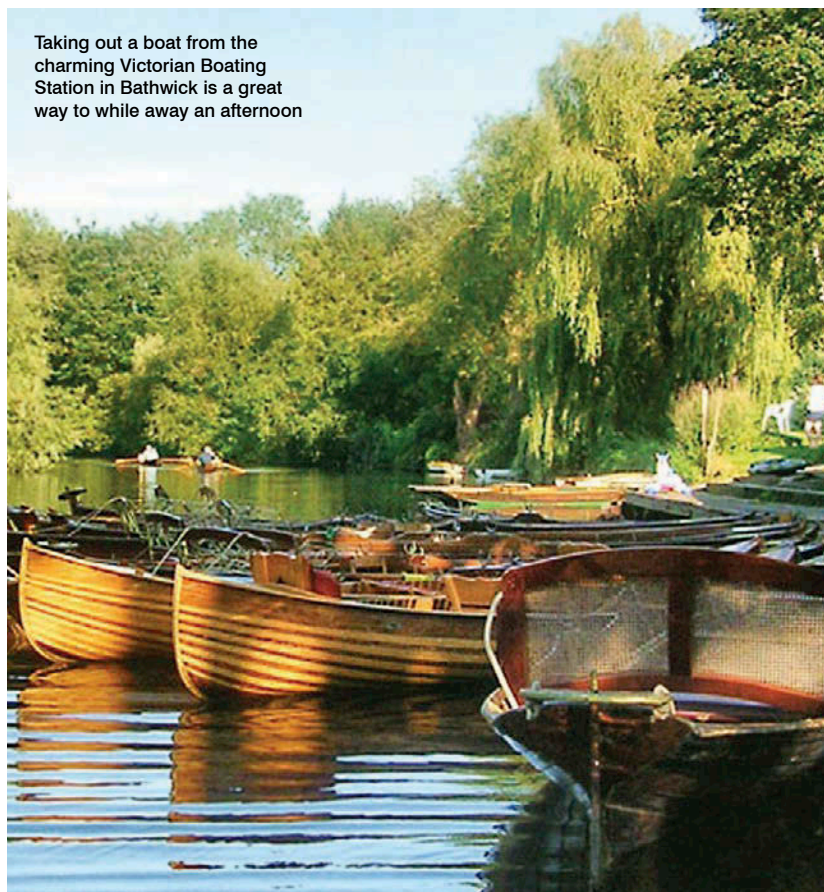
All visitors – and locals – like to say they've tried the very latest thing that's making a buzz in the city, and right now that's the just-opened Gainsborough Bath Spa, Bath's biggest hotel project in decades. Rumour has it that YTL Hotels spent £35million on the Gainsborough, which might explain the sparkling spa beneath a central glass atrium – the only one in the UK to use natural thermal waters. Nip in for a gin at the bar, dinner at Johann Lafer at the Gainsborough for the 'dining without borders' experience (see also page 46) or, to make the most of the best views we've ever seen in Bath, over the glistening Thermae Bath Spa's rooftop pool and towards a glowing Abbey, we suggest you book in for the night (www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk). Opt for a Bath Spa Room for a special third tap, which delivers that magical natural thermal water straight into the comfort of your roll-top bath.

B IS FOR BOATS

For a gentle *Wind in the Willows*-style meander, taking out one of the Thames skiffs (old-fashioned rowing boats, to you and me), punts, Canadian canoes or kayaks from the charming Victorian Boating Station in Bathwick is an elegant and relaxing way to while away an afternoon (www.bathboating.co.uk). You'd hardly know you were in the heart of the city for most of the trip either, the London Road rarely more than a couple of hundred yards away.

And if you want to go really old school, book a trip on The Lady Lena (www.ladylena.co.uk) – the oldest electric river launch in existence. You can charter the Victorian vessel for parties of two to ten anywhere from Bath to Bradford on Avon, while you sip champagne, tuck into cream teas, hire a private caterer or fill your own wicker hamper with all your favourite al fresco eats. ▷

Taking out a boat from the charming Victorian Boating Station in Bathwick is a great way to while away an afternoon



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National Trust





Clockwise from left: It was *Grease* last year, and this summer sees *Mamma Mia* being screened in Victoria Park on 30 August; you can still catch *Agrippina* as part of Iford Arts' festival season

also dates on 16 and 23 September (www.romanbaths.co.uk).

And, of course, soaking up the history in a more rambling, informal way, can be as simple as taking a gentle stroll around the city, or you can shirk your responsibilities completely by pointing your visitors in the direction of the hop-on-hop-off red tour bus or free two-hour excursion with one of the Mayor's Guides (www.bathguides.org.uk).

Sticking with the history theme, you could try one of the ghost walks (www.ghostwalksofbath.co.uk) that leave the Garrick's Head every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night at 8pm; you'll never see Victoria Park in the same light again.

BEST OF THE FESTS

The 2015 festival season is already well underway – kicking yourself because you've missed Bath Carnival, the aforementioned Boules or Bath Music Fest? There's still a crazily-packed summer programme of drama, opera, music and open-air cinema to work your way through; so we've selected a few of our favourite Bath events to show off to those demanding visitors.

Is there anything that says summer – and romance – more than a movie by moonlight? Maybe, but we love the idea anyway. *Mamma Mia* is being screened in Victoria Park on 30 August (at 8.30pm, or when it gets dark!) and all money raised will go towards The ➤

COME ON IN, THE WATER'S LOVELY

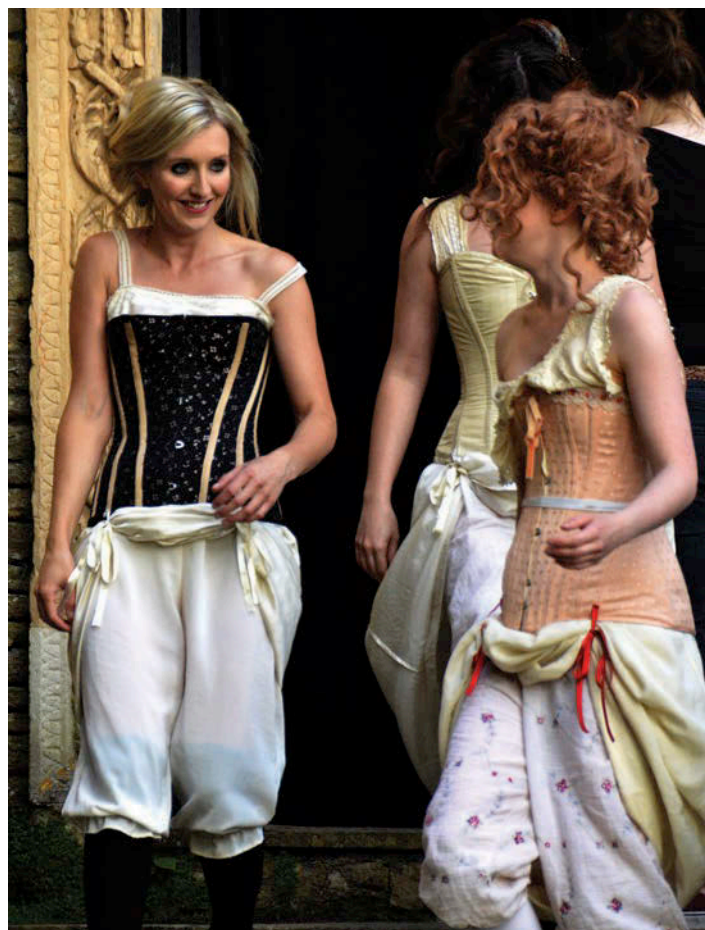
If the weather's truly glorious in Bath this summer – and stranger things have happened – we're prepared to let you off the museum-and-shopping trail. Instead, show off one of Bath's greatest al fresco assets; Claverton Weir. At least 100m long and set in a valley off the Avon, it's an idyllic spot for wild swimming, with both deep stretches and shallow areas above. To find it, follow the A36 around 3km out of Bath to Claverton and then turn left down Ferry Lane. Walk to the bottom and cross into the big field and you'll see the weir on your right.


If you do want to brave the queues and see the city from the rooftop pool of Bath's Thermae Bath Spa, avoid weekends or book in for the twilight package (www.thermaebathspa.com).

TAKE A WALK ON THE OLD SIDE

Bath's certainly not short on landmark buildings and revered museums that are sure to delight history buffs. Pounding the 2000-year-old pavements at the Roman Baths, taking in Canaletto's paintings at the Holburne, seeing Bath through the eyes of Jane Austen at the Victoria Art Gallery (see also page 40) or learning about contemporary Native American culture at The American Museum all make for fascinating one-off visits, but there are also off-the-well-trodden-path options too.

Visit one of Bath's most secret heritage sites Cleveland Pools – the UK's only surviving Georgian lido, hidden away on the banks of the Avon in Bathwick. There are special heritage open days on 11, 12 and 13 September and you can also turn up during site maintenance sessions during August (www.clevelandpools.org.uk). You can also really impress your friends if you manage to get them a hard-to-come-by space on the Roman Bath's tunnel tours, where you can explore the 'hidden' Roman, Georgian and Victorian history of the site, at no extra charge to the museum entrance fee. There's very limited availability on the 12 August tour, but there are





AN EASY WAY TO IMPRESS GUESTS IS AT THE 17TH-CENTURY MANSION, GARDEN AND 270-ACRE DEER PARK AT DYRHAM PARK

Forever Friends Appeal's RUH Cancer Care Campaign.

As any reader of the broadsheets' arts reviews will well know, Iford Arts opera and jazz festival, in the impossibly beautiful surrounds of Iford Manor, is a pretty big deal. While some events are long-since sold out, you can still bag tickets for the *Another World* prom on 8 August, featuring harpist Lucinda Belle in the cloister and the Cable Street Collective's catchy tunes and dance-inspired beats in the casita, as well as opera *Agrippina* on 29 and 31 July and 1, 4, 5 August (www.ifordarts.org.uk).

If folk's more your thing, then you can go to many a gig, learn to play an instrument at various workshops, or join in the campfire capers during the Bath Folk Fest, which runs from 8-16 August (www.bathfolkfestival.org). And then September marks the return of the big-hitters such as the Jane Austen Festival and Bath Children's Lit Fest...

RETAIL OF THE UNEXPECTED

Demonstrate Bath's fierce sense of independence to your friends via the medium of shopping. The chain stores that characterise SouthGate, Milsom Street and Union Street are mostly absent from the rest of the city's shopping streets, where the indies tend to rule; the standouts for us are Walcot Street, Broad Street, Argyle Street, Kingsmead Square, Margaret's Buildings and the pockets of Widcombe, Bear Flat and Chelsea Road. And don't miss the opportunity for some weekend market mooching down at Green Park Station; the Saturday Farmer's Market is a haven for foodies while the monthly Bath Artisan Market plays host to over 70 stalls selling the best of the west's upcycled vintage, handmade and

Above: The glorious pond view at Dyrham Park

art treasures with plenty of gourmet food stalls thrown in (www.bathartisanmarket.com). There's also a vintage and antiques market here on the first, third and last Sunday of every month (www.bathmarkets.co.uk).

And in similar vein, it's Bath's indie coffee houses, casual eateries, gastro pubs and fine dining establishments that best represent the city's incredibly vibrant food scene; just don't ask us to pick a favourite haunt, as this changes hourly, depending on our mood.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

So obvious that we hesitate to mention them, but far too beautiful to miss are the numerous National Trust gems nearby (www.nationaltrust.org.uk). We'll always love the deliciously fragrant Courts Garden for its quintessential English feel and lovely tearoom. Prior Park Landscape Garden is the perfect spot to take Instagram-snaps of your party on one of only four Palladian bridges of this design in the world, and you can wander the garden created by 18th-century entrepreneur Ralph Allen, with advice from 'Capability' Brown and the poet Alexander Pope. If you have keen walkers in tow, you're also only a five-minute walk from the Bath Skyline, a six-mile circular route encompassing enchanting woodlands and meadows, an Iron Age hill fort, Roman settlements, 18th-century follies and spectacular views. Another easy way to impress guests is at the 17th-century mansion, garden and 270-acre deer park at Dyrham Park. You'll find plenty to entertain both big and small kids alike. **BL**



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GO OUTDOORS

Why not enjoy some traditional summer fun at **COOMBS CLAY SHOOTING** on the edge of Bath?

Coombs Clay Shooting, based on the outskirts of Bath, hosts clay shooting sessions for both experienced guns and complete novices. Since 2013, the site has offered many individuals, friends and families the chance to spend time together and experience the pleasure of a fantastic

traditional English sport.

The small local business, owned by Mark Coombs, is very much a family affair. If you're looking for a delightful farm setting with room to set up a picnic and the ability to shoot at your leisure – it's very much the go-to place.

Mark himself is an avid clay shooter (he likes skeet shooting in particular) and gets great satisfaction out of introducing people to the outdoor sport. He's very friendly, approachable and always eager to help customers.

The business is a registered trade member of the British Association for Shooting and Conversation and has special permits issued under the Firearms Act by the police for non-license holders to shoot under Mark's supervision.

Mark's prime objective is to promote the sport; by making it both affordable and enjoyable. To find out more check out the website where you can also book online or purchase a gift voucher. **BL**



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DANISH INNOVATION AT YOUR TABLE

Richard Hayes of TR Hayes furniture store in Bath explores this unique brand in more detail to see how 'simple' can mean more for your home

Over the last 80 years, Danish Company Skovby has proven itself as a leading international brand, producing some of the most amazing Scandinavian furniture creations from some of the simplest designs.

Designed and manufactured completely in Denmark, this family-run Danish brand started with a vision to create sustainable functional furniture, a philosophy that still underpins the brand today. Skovby's carefully planned designs combine excellent craftsmanship and natural, sustainably sourced materials that add an individual expression to each piece of furniture.

Timeless in their appeal, Skovby's contemporary designs combine innovative functionality and clean lines that fit perfectly into the modern way of living. Its dining furniture in particular can't fail to impress, showcasing innovative mould-breaking concepts that have seen a number of designs patented over a period of more than 25 years with the company.

The circular #32 dining room is a great example of one of these patented designs. Equipped with a unique extension system, this impressive circular dining table extends in three directions when turning a plate under the table top, taking the seating capacity from six to nine people. Perfect for those with limited space but who like to entertain, Skovby gives uncompromised style with functionality in a simple way that works. Another great design, for those with a slightly larger home or family, is the #27 dining table. Beautifully crafted, this everyday six-seater table extends to seat 14 with three extension leaves stored under the table top – with an extra leaf available to buy if needed. Simple, without being minimalistic, the #27 has rounded edges which are pleasant



Skovby #32 dining table



Skovby #27 dining table

TR HAYES SUMMER SALE NOW ON

to touch. Available in a variety of finishes including oak, walnut and black wenge, the design exudes an elegant simplicity that hides the underlying ingenuity. The #37 table is more contemporary and features a stylish base with a stainless steel plinth, and by using the two integral extension leaves, is able to extend from a six to a comfortable 10-seater.

These dining sets can be perfectly complemented by a collection of chairs, sideboards and cabinets, with some models that can be wall mounted for a clean, contemporary look or adapted to sit on either wood or brushed steel legs.

The individuality that distinguishes all of Skovby's products provides consumers with the freedom to create a functional contemporary space that meets their every individual taste and need. Through the careful consideration of the real life application of a piece of furniture beyond its aesthetic appeal, paired with the vision to experiment with new ideas and introduce market-changing innovations, Skovby has amassed a product offer that both excites and inspires.

For more information on the Skovby range please visit the TR Hayes store on London Street or online at www.trhayes.co.uk. Local delivery is free and there is a large customer car park at the side of the store. **BL**



Skovby #37 dining table



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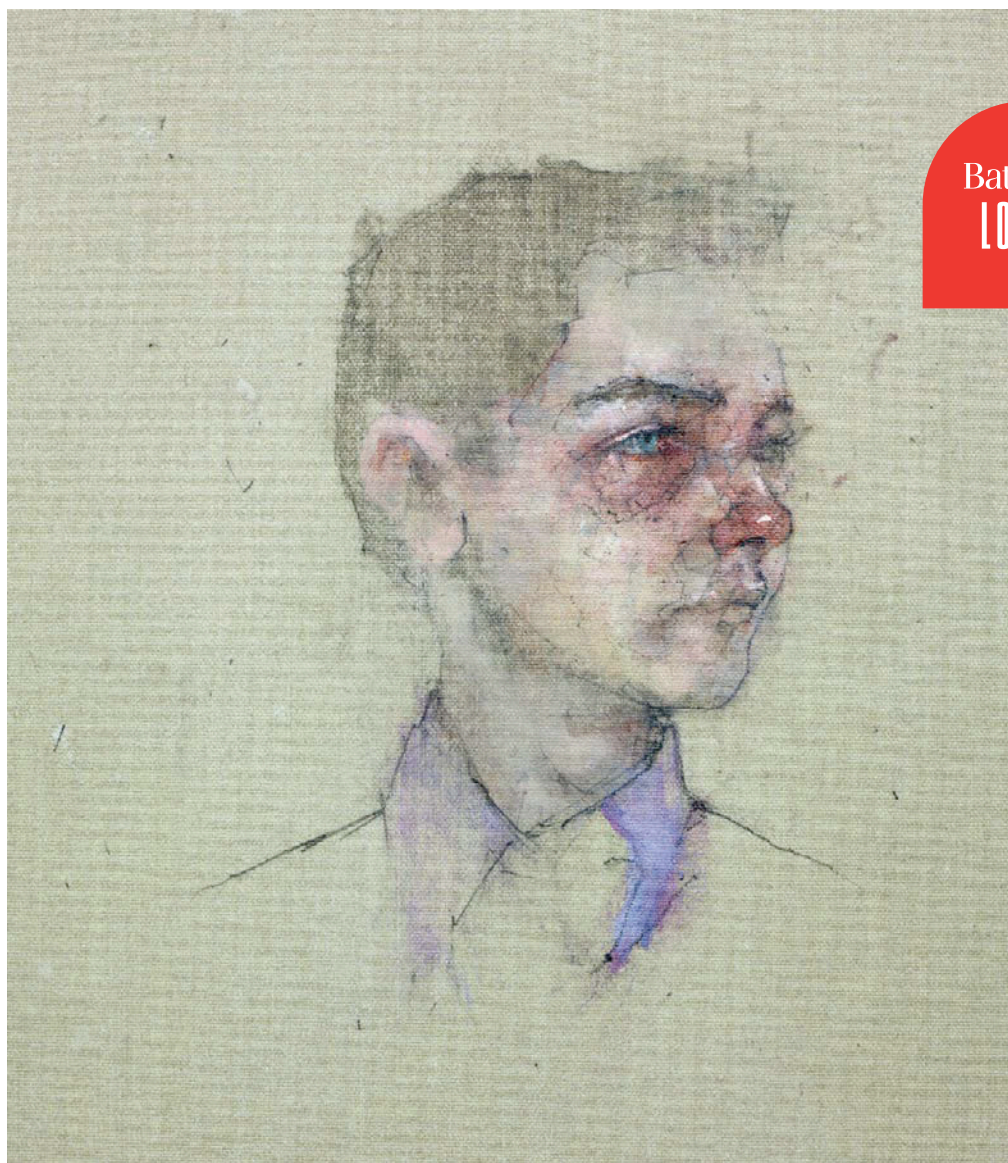
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THE ARTS

A FEW NOTES ON THE CULTURE



BathLife
LOVES

MILD-MANNERED MAESTRO

We've long thought Nathan Ford is a genius. From his depictions of grey London street scenes to his decidedly sombre portraits, he manages to capture a fleeting moment and conjure a sense of other-worldliness and intrigue with his not-quite-finished paintings. "Large and small, the paintings thrive on their mortality," says Aidan Quinn at Beaux Arts. "Mortality is distilled into the emotive single eyes of his nearest and dearest. These small gems sparkle, unerringly and without flinching, in a testimony to what a small portrait can achieve even when, or especially when, the drawing medium has been reduced to its merest essentials. 'All memory' Richard Hugo says, 'resolves itself into gaze.'"

/

Tom by Nathan Ford is part of Artists of Fame and Promise at Beaux Arts, 12-13 York Street, Bath, until 29 August; www.beauxartsbath.co.uk

25 July – 22 August

WHAT'S ON

OUR SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR MONTH



Vegetarian cook and writer Anna Jones will be winning round even die-hard carnivores at Topping's; join French baker Richard Bertinet for a five-day breadmaking course; comedian Andrew Ryan comes to Komedia as part of its Edinburgh Fringe preview season

Exhibitions

UNTIL 8 AUGUST

WE HAVE CONTACT

Internationally acclaimed British painter Paul Wright has returned to Edgar Modern with his second solo exhibition. Expect dynamic brushstrokes, bold colour and a breadth of subjects all in his inimitable style. We Have Contact references the narratives that touch us and connect us to each other. Through Paul's images we may pick up clues, and be drawn into his colourful world. Edgar Modern; www.edgarmodern.com

UNTIL 8 AUGUST

SUMMER EXHIBITION

Bath Contemporary's rolling summer season continues with new work from the ever popular Claire Wiltsher. See her distinctive and energetic

portrayal of landscapes and seascapes inspired by the New Forest and surrounding Dorset coastline, as well as new work from Boo Mallinson, emerging artist Anna Pinkster, Nicholas Turner RWA and Ellen Watson. Bath Contemporary; www.bathcontemporary.com

UNTIL 15 AUGUST

ENCLOSURES

Quercus Gallery is hosting an exhibition of original prints, works on paper, paintings and sculpture by Katherine Jones, John Mitchell and Sandra Porter. Each artist's work references different forms of enclosure, whether it be the physical structure of a built form or the concept of enclosed, confined space. See also a collection of silver jewellery by Somerset-based jewellery designer Penny Price. Quercus Gallery; www.quercusgallery.co.uk

UNTIL 29 AUGUST

ACROSS THE BOARD

The Nick Cudworth Gallery is offering a chance to revisit a wide range of signed, limited edition prints taken from original oil paintings and pastel drawings by Nick Cudworth over several years. These represent his many varied interests, often with an unusual perspective. Nick Cudworth Gallery; www.nickcudworth.com

UNTIL 29 AUGUST

ARTISTS OF FAME AND PROMISE

Beaux Arts presents some superb new work by artists Helen Simmonds, Nathan Ford (see also p33), Andrew Crocker, Nicholas Middleton and Michael Porter as well as Stewart Edmondson, Christopher Marvell, Anna Gillespie, Sarah Gillespie, Jason Walker and

Simon Wright. Beaux Arts; www.beauxartsbath.co.uk

UNTIL 31 AUGUST

DARREN GORDON

Monkton Prep teacher and artist Darren Gordon is exhibiting a selection of mixed media paintings at Bloomsbury Café, all of which have been created on handmade paper on Anglesey beaches and incorporate found objects. Sales go towards the Beachwatch Marine Conservation Society. Bloomsbury Café; www.bloomsburystore.com

UNTIL 4 OCTOBER

CANALETTO CELEBRATING BRITAIN EXHIBITION

When the Venetian painter Antonio Canal arrived in London in 1746, Britain was booming. During his nine-year stay, the artist captured the latest achievements of

British architecture and engineering. Including loans from Compton Verney, The National Trust, The British Museum, Royal Collection Trust and Tate, this exhibition also features Canaletto's British contemporaries and a review of John Wood's reinvention of architecture in Bath. The Holburne; www.holburne.org

UNTIL 4 OCTOBER

JANE AUSTEN'S BATH

Step back in time and see Bath as Jane Austen would have. Experience the local places and entertainments so vividly depicted in novels like *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*. The Victoria Art Gallery's collection of Bath prints and watercolours are used to illuminate the story of where Austen's characters met, flirted and fell in love, and give us an insight into life and culture in Austen's day. (See also p40). Victoria Art Gallery; www.victoriagal.org.uk

UNTIL 31 OCTOBER

SAM HEATH: LIUNIADU

Drawings and etchings by Sam Heath who studied art at Bath College. Sam uses traditional processes such as bronze casting and etching but the foundation of all his work is drawing from direct observation. This, his first solo exhibition, presents over 20 drawings made during three years in Cardiff. These include portraits, of himself and others, a sequence documenting the construction of an office block over several months, and etchings based on other artists' work. Society Café; www.samlukeheath.com

1 - 29 AUGUST

COASTAL ELEMENTS

See work by Ian Rawnsley and Tony Scrivener, two artists connected by their desire to interpret coastal landscapes. Ian Rawnsley's paintings capture the power of the sea and play of light and textures on waves and wet sand, while Tony Scrivener builds a representation of the coastal landscape through his own language of bold forms and lines. See also work by ceramic sculptor, Mary Kaun-English, whose sculptures are created in response to the British landscape. David

Simon Contemporary; www.davidsimoncontemporary.com

1 - 31 AUGUST

LONG HOT SUMMER

In her seascapes and landscapes, Emma Rose encompasses the true essence of the natural elements with her energetic paintwork techniques and use of colour. Her work bridges the gap between abstraction and realism while remaining authentic to the subject matter and mood that it evokes. Emma Rose Art Works, upstairs at 78 Walcot Street; www.emmaroseartworks.com

5 - 31 AUGUST

YVONNE COOMBER

See work by Yvonne Coomber, much of which is inspired by the magical light of west Cornwall and the beauty of the west of England, and enjoy a rare opportunity to meet this popular artist from 6pm-8pm on 5 August. Her work is a celebration of feeling, based on the wildness, moorlands and hedgerows of the region; vibrant and uplifting canvases shimmering with colour and demonstrating Yvonne's famously exuberant love of paint. Imagination; www.imagination.com

6, 13, 20, 27 AUGUST

DESIRE LINES: ROMANCE AND RATIONALISM IN BRIDGE DESIGN

From Isambard Kingdom Brunel to the present day, discover the art and science behind the creation of some of the world's most fascinating structures in this major free exhibition being held by BuroHappold, part of the Architecture Centre's Bridge150 Festival. Following the 150th anniversary of the world-famous Clifton Suspension Bridge, this touring exhibition looks at the stories behind the creation of some of today's most innovative structures. It includes videos, photographs, drawings, and gives visitors the chance to test their own bridge building skills. 3pm-5pm, BuroHappold Engineering, Lower Bristol Road; www.burohappold.com

8 AUGUST - 7 SEPTEMBER

MADE IN BRITAIN

Rostra Gallery celebrates all that is British with their new exhibition, Made in Britain. Peruse the new work being



Clockwise from top: See photography by Simon Taylor at 44AD Gallery; *Forest Vail* by Claire Wiltsher at Bath Contemporary; *You Are My Sweetheart* by Yvonne Coomber at Imagination

showcased, from a selection of local and UK-based artists, highlighting the importance of supporting our local artists and encouraging us all to embrace original handmade artwork. Rostra Gallery; www.rostragallery.co.uk

10 - 16 AUGUST

BATH IN BLOSSOM

View 20 new original oil paintings by Bath-based artist Eloise Govier, capturing Bath in bloom. After witnessing her first spring in Bath, the British-Welsh artist, overwhelmed by the visual change of Bath, took to her canvas seeking to capture the beginning of the flowering season. Walcot Chapel; e.a.govier@gmail.com

18 - 23 AUGUST

STREET SEEN

This exhibition showcases the exciting, eclectic range of photography of Photo Bath founding members Phil Hendy, Anna Kot, Jon Leahy, Carlos

Ordenez and Simon Taylor. From the lyrical to the ironic and incorporating the abstract, all five artists demonstrate a strong but individual set of images in response to a common theme. 44AD Gallery; www.photobath.co.uk

20 AUGUST - 4 OCTOBER

PORTRAITS AND IDENTITY

What can a portrait tell us? How can it tell us what a person is like? How truthful is it? A look at a wonderful selection of portrait prints, by artists as diverse as Hogarth, Dürer and Grayson Perry, this exhibition gives a fascinating insight into how artists and their sitters construct identity in art. Victoria Art Gallery; www.victoriagal.org.uk

Plays/Shows

UNTIL 8 AUGUST

TALKING HEADS

Alan Bennett sealed his reputation as the master of



observation and brilliant comic phrasing with this series of ground-breaking monologues – *A Cream Cracker Under the Settee*; *A Chip in the Sugar*; and *A Lady of Letters* – originally filmed for television. This is a rare opportunity to see three of the original Talking Heads, at once darkly comic, poignant and uplifting and widely regarded as modern classics. £18.50-£34.50. Theatre Royal; www.theatreroyal.org.uk

30 JULY

ANDREW RYAN AND CHARLIE BAKER

Irishman Andrew Ryan made his comedy circuit debut in 2008 when he spontaneously entered an open mic contest. Fast-forward to 2015 and he is now one of the most exciting talents in recent years, in demand as a headliner and an MC at the biggest comedy clubs across Ireland and the UK. Andrew's quintessentially Irish storytelling abilities and cheeky, friendly demeanour makes him a natural observational stand up. Charlie Baker also has the instant likeability factor and charming delivery style. He's also a highly acclaimed jazz singer and actor – his critically-acclaimed show *Baker's Dozen* had a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival. 7.30pm, £8, Komedia; www.komedia.co.uk

3 & 4 AUGUST

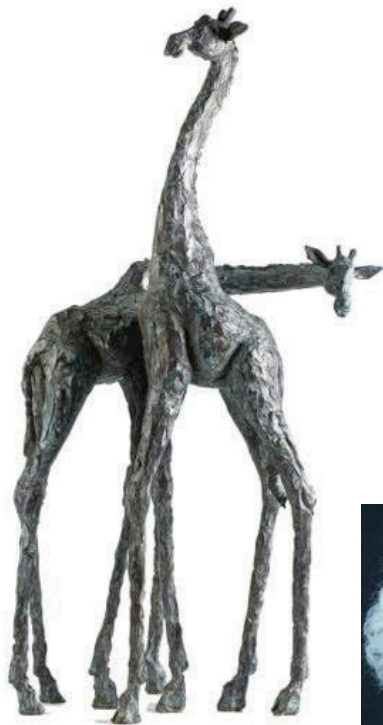
SHAKESPEARE IN THE GARDEN

Permanently Bard returns for the second year to the Boater pub on Argyle Street, this year performing *Romeo and Juliet*. Enjoy a fantastic performance of one of Shakespeare's favourite plays in the summery outdoors. Tickets are now available from the pub, or from the website. 7.30pm, £12.50-£15, The Boater; www.boaterbath.co.uk

15 AUGUST – 5 SEPTEMBER

MRS HENDERSON PRESENTS

It's London, it's 1937, and the recently-widowed eccentric Laura Henderson is looking for a way of spending her time and money, when her attention falls on a run-down former cinema in Great Windmill Street. She hires feisty impresario Vivian Van Damm to look after the



newly renovated Windmill Theatre, and the improbable duo present a bill of non-stop variety acts. But as war looms, something more is going to be required to boost morale and box office figures, and when Mrs Henderson comes up with the idea of The Windmill Girls – glamorous young women posing as nude statues – audiences begin to flock... £22-£38, Theatre Royal; www.theatreroyal.org.uk

20 & 27 AUGUST

JANE AUSTEN DANCERS

The Jane Austen Dancers will be performing at Victoria Art Gallery in full period costume, and in sets, in conjunction with the Jane Austen's Bath exhibition. They will also be chatting to visitors about the dances, the music and their Georgian and Regency costumes. This event is free to Discovery Card and ticket holders. 5pm-7pm, Victoria Art Gallery; www.victoriagal.org.uk

Music

31 JULY

OPERALETTA

Operaletta presents music inspired by the Holburne's Canaletto Celebrating Britain exhibition, as part of this summer evening recital. Its talented singers will be performing solos and ensembles by 18th-century English and Italian composers. Featuring Edna Blackwell (Schantz forte piano) and Geoff Ditcham (introductions). 7.30pm, £10/£12,



PHOTO BY MARK DOUET

Clockwise from above: *Stilts* by Helen Gordon at Rostra Gallery; Dan Moon hosts a summer cookery demo at Ston Easton Park; Stephanie Cole, Karl Theobald and Siobhan Redmond star in *Talking Heads* at the Theatre Royal

The Holburne; www.holburne.org

2 AUGUST

SMOKED AND UNCUT

Enjoy music from well-travelled English gent and expert songwriter Ed Harcourt, who has performed with several legends, from Patti Smith to Nick Cave; plus performances from alt-pop band Teleman and new Danish/British trio Sinnober, all at The Pig's annual meat and music festival. Bath band Carousels and Limousines, and The Drystones will also be joining the line-up. 12pm-6pm, £30, The Pig near Bath; www.smokedanduncut.com

2 AUGUST

BATH SPA BAND LOVE PARKS WEEK CONCERT

A free concert in the park featuring Bath Spa Band and Training Band. Kindly sponsored by Bath In Bloom, The Charter Trustees and Morgan-Brinkhurst Consultancy. Music will include both traditional and popular music. Why not bring a picnic? 2pm, Royal Victoria Park; www.bathspaband.co.uk

8 AUGUST

ANOTHER WORLD

This year at Iford Arts, harpist Lucinda Belle returns to the Cloister. It's been an incredible journey for the London-based artist who fell in love with the harp aged six and became the first harpist in the National Children's Orchestra before becoming a session harpist and backing singer in-demand for stars including Annie Lennox and Robbie Williams. See what makes her so special this summer at the beautiful Iford Manor. 6pm, £34, Iford Manor; www.ifordarts.org.uk

8 – 15 AUGUST

BATH FOLK FESTIVAL

This grassroots festival is now into its sixth year, and is shaping up to be the most exciting yet. Events include concerts by some of the folk genre's greatest innovators, classes at a traditional music summer school, storytelling sessions, family events, a ceilidh and much more. Featured artists include Crossharbour, Hungarian band Fabula Rasa, Himmerland from Denmark, RSVP Bhangra, Inu, Lampa and ▶

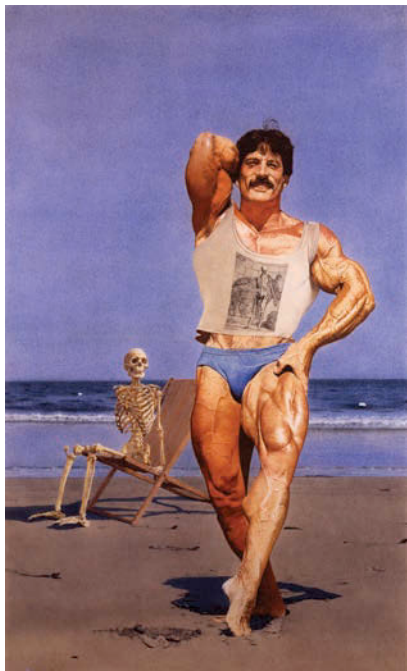
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28 JULY

CLAY WORKSHOP

Discover the folklore and mystery surrounding the 'green man'. With the help of an expert clay worker, kids can make their very own clay green man to hide in and among the trees of Prior Park for other visitors to enjoy and discover throughout the summer. 10.30am-12.30pm, £1 per child to cover material costs, Prior Park; www.nationaltrust.org.uk/priorpark

4 AUGUST

THE AMERICAN WILDERNESS DAY AT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM

Join EcoWild for wilderness adventures in the American Museum's woodlands. Learn essential survival skills inspired by Native American tribes and early settlers. Carve your own tools, track animals, build shelters, and enjoy the great outdoors. Booking is essential, and the day is suitable for ages six and up. 1.30pm-3.30pm, £10 (£8 for museum members), American Museum; www.americanmuseum.org

7 AUGUST

PADDINGTON

When polite Paddington Bear arrives in London from the Peruvian jungle, he's adopted by Mr and Mrs Brown (played by Hugh Bonneville and Sally Hawkins). But it isn't long before he attracts the attentions of a sinister taxidermist! Michael Bond's much-loved creation comes to the screen at Wiltshire Music Centre, courtesy of *Harry Potter* producer David Heyman. 10.30am, £3, Wiltshire Music Centre; www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk

17 AUGUST

JAPANESE FANTASTIC

Join the Museum of East Asian Art this summer holiday to experience a fantastic slice of Japanese culture. Create your own Manga comic book, make Japanese dolls, learn how the Japanese serve tea traditionally, rummage through the museum's collection of costumes and have some dressing up fun!



From top, down: The Bath Spa Band are putting on a free concert in Royal Victoria Park on 2 August; *Paddington* will be showing at Wiltshire Music Centre; the Jane Austen Dancers perform on 20 and 27 August at Victoria Art Gallery

All materials are included. 2pm-4.30pm, £3.50, Museum of East Asian Art; www.meaa.org.uk

19 - 23 AUGUST

THE TEACUP POISONER

It was 1961. 14-year-old Graham Young had a great talent for chemistry and a hunger for fame. He might have opted for a successful career in science but instead, and within just a year, his stepmother was dead and his father, sister and a school friend had been poisoned... 60 young people, led by the egg theatre's professional team, have created this 'Sweeney Todd for teenagers', and the first original musical in Storm on the Lawn's 18-year history. £9/£13, The egg; www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Other

28 JULY

ANNA JONES IN BATH

Cook, food stylist and writer Anna Jones' acclaimed *A Modern Way to Eat* is one of the best vegetarian cookbooks of recent times according to many, and has revolutionised palates with robust, inspired and delicious dishes that would win round even the most die-hard carnivores. Practicality is the theme in her new collection, *The Modern Way to Cook*, which features quick and nourishing food that's realistic and practical on any night of the week. 7.30pm, £7, Topping's; www.toppingbooks.co.uk

5 AUGUST

SUMMER COOKERY DEMO

Meet Ston Easton Park's award-winning head chef Daniel Moon, who will be demonstrating how to prepare and cook a selection of summer dishes that you can enjoy with friends and family out in the summer sun. Followed by a two-course lunch and a glass of wine in the Sorrel restaurant. Tea and coffee will also be served on arrival. 10.30am, £39.50, Ston Easton Park; www.stoneaston.co.uk

8 AUGUST

OIL PAINTING WORKSHOP

Local artist Rob Lunn is running a beginners' oil painting workshop at Bath Artists' Studios, with all profits going to road safety charity Brake. It will guide learners through each stage of painting a still-life in oils, breaking it down to easily digestible chunks. All materials are provided and participants will also receive a full-colour handbook covering the entire workshop to enable them to carry on at home. 10am-5pm, £75, Bath Artists' Studios; www.roblunn.co.uk

10 - 14 AUGUST

BREADMAKING WITH RICHARD BERTINET

Join Richard Bertinet for this hands-on five-day baking course. Begin the week with his introduction to breadmaking on Monday, followed by lessons on French breads, Italian breads, dark and sweet breads, and slow doughs and sourdoughs on the following days. 10am, £925, Bertinet Kitchen; www.thebertinetkitchen.com

20 AUGUST

FALCONRY HANDLING

An afternoon of falconry handling beginning with a two-course lunch. Following this, you'll send a hawk off in flight before it returns and lands gently on your outstretched glove. Ben Long Falconry School will also carry out a spectacular display so you can witness the skill and power of these incredible creatures. A truly unforgettable afternoon in beautiful grounds. 12pm, £24.50/£39.50, Ston Easton Park; www.benlongfalconry.co.uk **BL**

PHOTO BY PAOLO FERLA



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JANE'S WORLD

The Victoria Art Gallery's latest show shines the spotlight on Regency Bath, as seen through the eyes of the city's most famous resident. We catch up with curator Katharine Wall, and discover that Jane Austen narrowly avoided prison and might well have been fond of Bath after all . . .

By KATE AUTHERS

Katharine Wall claims not to be a Jane Austen expert, but in painstakingly putting together this exhibition at the council-run Victoria Art Gallery, which runs until October 4, she came across an interesting discovery. Most books on Jane Austen – of which there are many – have a tendency to be illustrated with pictures from completely the wrong date. “Once you start looking at the books it’s just awful, because they tend to use a lot of pictures that are from, say, 40 years before she was living here – they’re the sort of expansive, scenic views we’ve got in our collection, but they’re just plain wrong,” says Katharine. “So when I started work on this exhibition, the first thing I did was to look for all the pictures in the collection of Bath that date from the period when Jane Austen was *actually* here.”

Jane lived in Bath between 1801-1805, a period when the city was losing its shine as the most fashionable city outside of London. With over 100 of the gallery's best prints and watercolours in the exhibition, it's a rare opportunity to be able to see the Bath that Austen saw, as well as the

“
THE
BOTTOM
LINE IS,
JANE AUSTEN
NEARLY
WENT TO
PRISON,
WHICH IS
FABULOUS
ISN'T IT?
”

sights, sounds and atmosphere so vividly depicted in her novels *Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*. “What’s been really pleasing is tying up things from our collection with her quotes, especially as sometimes you’ll come across a quote that’s just perfect for a picture,” says Katharine, indicating an acid-toned excerpt from a letter accompanying an image of Weston.

“Although her first documented visit to Bath was in 1797 when she was 22, members of her family had been living here for years, as is demonstrated by the marriage certificate of Jane’s parents from St Swithin’s Church, a copy of which is featured in this exhibition,” says gallery manager Jon Benington. “It’s a brilliant thing to have,” adds Katharine. “I’ve just looked at it properly and it says that her father was a curate at Walcot before he moved to Hampshire, which is news to me, so there are very strong family connections between Jane Austen and Bath.”

Highlights include several manuscripts and two letters written to her sister, Cassandra, borrowed from Jane Austen’s House Museum in Chawton. The first was sent from Bath, in which Jane describes her social life here, and the second from Bond Street in London. The exhibition also features a hand-written poem by Jane and period



Clockwise from opposite page: Jane Austen by Cassandra Austen, circa 1810, pencil and watercolour © National Portrait Gallery; *Sydney Gardens*, by John Claude Nattes, 1804; *Bath*, Thomas Clarke, 1800; *View of Cross Bath, Bath Street* by John Claude Nattes, 1804

accessories, including gloves and an umbrella.

The joy of looking at the pictures is to experience a very different Bath from the one we're so familiar with; one where Sydney Gardens was not a public park but a privately-run pleasure garden complete with grottos and a labyrinth, and one where the only traffic lining the streets came in the form of horses pulling carts. The captions which accompany the images are not only informative but also make you smile: Camden Place is deemed "a toilsome walk", the houses of New King Street too small for a prospective home, and an innocuous image of the Cross Bath and Bath Street is the subject of a far more interesting tale. "This is a fabulous thing because her aunt Jane Leigh-Perrot was accused of stealing some lace from that shop there," says Katharine, indicating towards what's now Primark on the picture. "The aunt was put in the county jail awaiting trial for months and months and Austen's mum offered for her daughters, Jane and Cassandra, to go and stay with her to keep her company and look after her. This is just a great story because the bottom line is, Jane Austen nearly went to prison, which is fabulous isn't it?" Happily, the story ended well, the aunt declined the *kind* offer and was also acquitted of any crime.

While it's true Austen experienced personal tragedy here – her father died suddenly at their home in Green Park after being ill with a fever for just 48 hours, was she really as miserable in Bath as people like to make out? "I think this is a little bit of a myth," says Katharine. "The reason there are so few letters is because the main person she wrote to throughout her whole life was her sister Cassandra, and when they were in Bath they were mostly living together, so there wasn't much need for letters. There's actually very little evidence about what Jane Austen felt about Bath. So this whole 'Jane hates Bath' thing is certainly founded on very shaky foundations."

We might never know what Jane really thought about Bath, but you should grab the opportunity to see the city as our most famous resident saw and experienced it, before coming to your own conclusions. **BL**

Jane Austen's Bath runs at the Victoria Art Gallery until 4 October. Lunchtime exhibition tours run every Thursday, 12.30-1.10pm (free to Discovery Card and ticket holders); there are free lunchtime talks in the Guildhall on 9, 16 & 23 September from 1.10-1.45pm and period dance displays from 5-7pm on 6, 13, 20 & 27 August. For more see: www.victoriagal.org.uk



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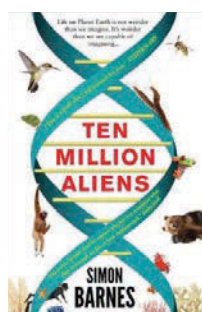
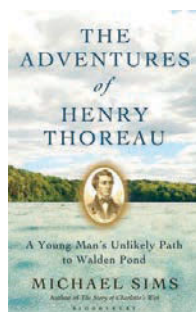
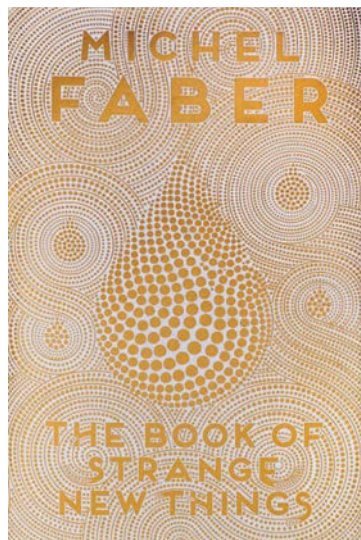
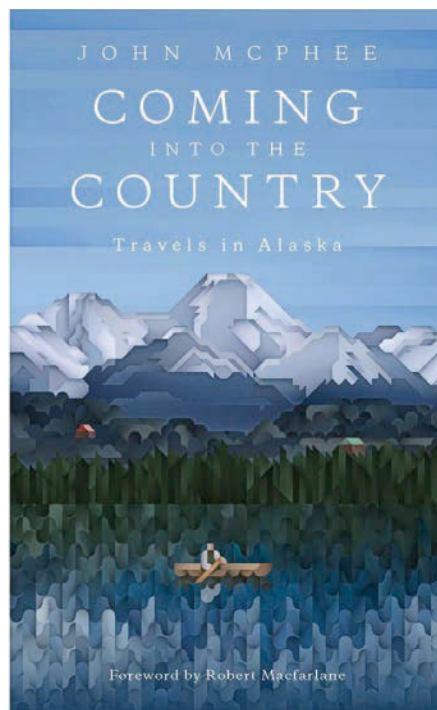
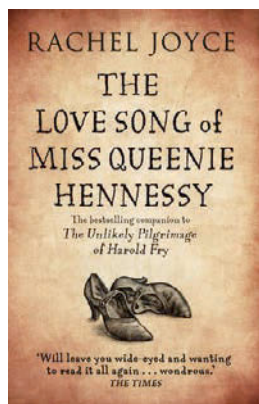
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Media
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On the fiction front, August, as ever, is a boom-time for paperback editions of books originally published last autumn. For literary science fiction turn to Michel Faber's *The Book of Strange New Things* (Canongate, £8.99), which explores the stresses and strains of the ultimate long-distance relationship as its missionary hero leaves his wife on earth in order to administer to a fledgling human community (and a far from human indigenous population) on the planet Oasis. Don't be fooled by the eccentric sounding set-up; it's a majestic and thought-provoking novel that through a gripping story looks at myriad issues including loss, faith (in every sense), prejudice and the environmental crisis.

“IT'S A MAJESTIC AND THOUGHT-PROVOKING NOVEL”

If you enjoyed Rachel Joyce's brilliant debut a few years ago, *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, then you may have been waiting eagerly for the arrival of the paperback edition of *The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy* (Transworld, £7.99). Queenie had sent Harold a letter in that first book which said she was dying and that prompted him to walk the length of England to try and save her. In this second volume she pens a second unposted letter – containing the whole truth – while Harold is on the road.

Finally, a wildly ambitious blend of nature writing and science has just hit the shelves in paperback from journalist, author and birder extraordinaire Simon Barnes. *Ten Million Aliens* (Short Books, £8.99) really does attempt to tell the story of the different species that make up the animal kingdom. Not the story of *all* of them you understand but, by focusing on the incredible diversity of life on earth, he does cover a vast number of intriguing creatures and their weird and wonderful ways of life. In many ways Barnes is just engaging in a broader, more thought-through and better worded, version of the kind of wide-eyed observation of your fellow creatures that you might indulge in, pool-side, while reading his book. **BL**



Nic Bottomley is the general manager of Mr B's Emporium of Reading Delights, 14/15 John Street, Bath; 01225 331155; www.mrbsemporium.com

HOLIDAY HEROES

Here's a summer paperback recommendation blitz, for the rare moments when the kids are playing harmoniously

By NIC BOTTOMLEY

Judging by the number of smiley teachers I've had through the door of the shop these last few days, I sense that the holidays proper are nearly upon us. That means, reading time! Or at least it does to some.

But even to parents whose children are similar ages to mine, at least it means the prospect of the odd chapter during those rare moments when the kids are playing harmoniously rather than clambering over you. So we'd better make sure those odd chapters are good ones – I feel a summer paperback recommendation blitz coming on.

If, like me, you like to read about wild travel while travelling more serenely yourself, then you'll be similarly excited about a forthcoming reissue from the folk at the brilliant bookseller-turned-publishers Daunt Books over in Marylebone, London. They've dug up an adventurous and chilly travelogue called *Coming into the Country* by John McPhee (Daunts, £10.99). Originally written in 1977,

this book operates as both travel memoir and a natural and cultural history of Alaska as McPhee wanders the endless wilderness and the few built-up areas of the vast state, travelling on foot, by canoe and even by dog-drawn sled. Britain's own guru on wilderness and landscape, Robert Macfarlane, has penned the introduction.

Perhaps the ultimate book of life in the wilderness is Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, recounting the writer, philosopher, historian and all-round thinking man's time trying out a life on his own away from the rat race in a small hut on the shore of Walden Pond, Massachusetts. Michael Sims' excellent biography, *The Adventures of Henry Thoreau* (Bloomsbury, £10.99) is out in paperback later in August and sheds light on the endless strings Thoreau had to his bow, and what it was in his early and surprisingly radical life that led him to Walden Pond. It should prove enlightening even if your pool is a bit more infinity than frog-ridden.

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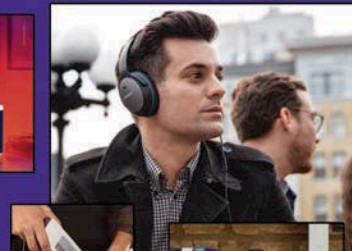
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Clockwise from left: The Little has some classics up its sleeve, including *A Clockwork Orange*; *Diary of a Teenage Girl* is funny and imaginative; Dustin Hoffman stars in *The Choir*; *The Legend of Barney Thomson* features Emma Thompson and Robert Carlyle



old mind – starts with s, ends with x. Brought up in a somewhat liberal household, Minnie has a refreshingly humorous perspective on love, and life in general, and it's a life which finds her with a big steamy crush on her mother's boyfriend, who, before his conscience kicks in, is only too happy to reciprocate. What follows is the total exploration of her sexuality, resulting in a few shocking moments (I'm not elaborating, you'll have to see it yourself). We see Minnie learn a few lessons along the way and watch her grow from her experiences. In turn, *Diary...* doesn't feel in any way gratuitous, but funny and imaginative. Go with an open mind.

“IT'S A DARK COMIC SCOTTISH THRILLER SURE TO ENTERTAIN”

For a fluffier, featherweight but no less entertaining flick, *Mistress America* is the latest from director Noah Baumbach, which he co-wrote with the lovely Greta Gerwig. If you're in a bubble-tastic mood, you are going to love this film. Tracy, (Lola Kirke) is a lonely college freshman, living a dull existence, when she contacts her imminent stepsister, Brooke, (Gerwig) who is living the life of a dizzy girl-about-town in New York's Times Square. Tracy is soon seduced by Brooke's crazy adventures and whirlwind nature, which includes a touch of cat-stealing. It's fun and frenetic with snappy dialogue to boot, so grab yourself a glass of fizz, a box of popcorn and enjoy the ride.

As always, the Little has a few classics up its sleeve for your pleasure. Offerings this month include: *Labyrinth*, the 1986 musical adventure fantasy film starring Mr Bowie; *Sunset Boulevard*, the 1950 American comedy film noir; *Man with a Movie Camera*, the experimental 1929 documentary film with no story and starring no one, and last but by no means least, Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*, a dystopian crime film from 1971. Wow! What a selection.

Oh, and if you haven't seen *Inside Out* yet, the new Pixar film, you are in for such a whopping treat. **BL**



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SUMMER CINEMA

Catch up on the latest round of cinematic delights – from cult classics to comic thrillers – in quieter, cool auditoria

By JENNIFER JENNINGS WRIGHT

Summer isn't the busiest season in cinema what with the scorchio weather and endless holidays. It is however an ideal time to catch up on the latest round of films in quieter, cool auditoria. What a wonderful, relaxing way to finish (or start!) off your day. Economical too if you visit on a Monday, when tickets are just £4 for any film, any time.

Should your summer not be going according to plan, we have a film of note to stave off the summertime blues. *The Choir* (or *Boychoir* as it's known across the water) includes a top-quality cast – Dustin Hoffman, Kathy Bates, our own Eddie Izzard, Debra Winger and more. It's the inspiring tale of a troubled Texan young dude, Stet, who at 11 is orphaned, and who also happens to be blessed with the voice of an angel. Reluctantly agreeing to attend an elite choral college, Stet goes out of his way to make the choirmaster Master Carvelle (Hoffman) work for his wages. It's not long before we see the familiar kindly, albeit demanding teacher/stroppy student roles emerge. Expect a family-friendly drama that

offers a fabulous score and teary quavering moments – it's a must see for the cosy formulaic pleasure.

Barney Thomson (Robert Carlyle) is your everyday Glaswegian barber with nothing to report other than the usual quiet desperation. His life is irreversibly changed when, after killing his boss, he is propelled into the world of a serial killer, Sweeney Todd-style. *The Legend of Barney Thomson* sees Barney pursued by cockney cop DI Holdall (Ray Winstone) and his hilarious inept cronies as the body count continues to mount up. Barney is offered cold comfort by his domineering mother, Cemolina, (Emma Thompson) who, it turns out, has her own skeletons in her cupboard. Incidentally, although playing his mother, Thompson is only two years older than Carlyle – the make-up artists certainly had their work cut out. It's a dark comic Scottish thriller sure to entertain.

Next up, *Diary of a Teenage Girl* is a coming-of-age drama which centres on Minnie, a fledgling cartoonist in 1970s San Fran. She has one thing on her 15-year-



Johann Lafer at The Gainsborough

We head to the city's hottest new asset – we're not just talking the thermal spa – where two culinary cultures beautifully collide. Photos by Christina West

By AMANDA NICHOLLS

Often dubbed 'Germany's answer to Jamie Oliver', Michelin-starred Austrian chef, TV personality and, more recently, crusader for quality school dinners, Johann Lafer is, yes, as much about healthy eating as he is haute cuisine. And it's a good thing too, he says, when he finds us sitting

down to lunch at The Gainsborough on Beau Street, the new thermal spring-fed spa hotel whose opening earlier this month has been one of the most hotly-anticipated events on the local hospitality calendar over the last couple of years. "English people, they really *know* their food now – they know what they want and what is good for them," he says. "What we are doing here is combining tasty, healthy, local ingredients with German influences and Asian flavours, and we hope to create something that they'll really love."

Johann Lafer at The Gainsborough is the first eponymous venture outside of Germany for this mustachioed culinarian, who has somehow managed to squeeze the foray in and around his self-produced television show, book writing, family life, helicopter piloting and school kitchen operations. Oh, and keeping things shipshape at Stromsburg, the medieval German *castle* he calls home – an address, we learn, that doubles up as a hotel with two restaurants and a cookery school...

The driving force behind the 'dining without borders' ethos instated here is Johann's long-time collaboration with friend and Malaysian chef Wai – of The Gainsborough's parent group YTL Hotels. Four years ago, we're told, they

embarked on a culinary quest to rediscover and fuse their native ingredients and cooking techniques while travelling their respective homelands. The result was an acclaimed, pretty little tome in pink, black and green – translating as *Two Friends, One Cuisine* – whose Asian-inspired cover design is recreated on the front of today's menus.

Our first taste of their explorations comes with a selection of the kitchen's own breads – the thick slices of moisture-rich, almost cake-like, mushroom bread a particular promise of good things to come. The sweeter five-spice bread is a hit too,

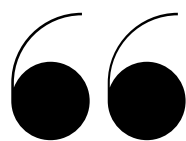
especially when paired with a knifeful of pastel green parsley butter, which is more like a soft, fluffy mousse. Once these have had their marching orders, Johann returns, quick to suggest the glazed lobster as a starting point. We roll with it – I mean, if Jamie Oliver told you to eat something, you'd eat it, and the same rules apply – and are we glad when the beautiful plates arrive. Each features a meaty curl of the delicious little seafaring king, crowning a double-layered disc of pale golden quinoa on a base of grilled watermelon, and this terrific trinity is topped off with hints of zesty Japanese yuzu. A fruit still fairly seldom seen with savouries on the whole, the watermelon is the perfect palate pal for its luxurious platefellow, helping to conjure some intriguing flavours, and as such we decide it's a fruit woefully under-utilised.

By this time the wine has arrived courtesy of our jovial server Germano – C having gone for the peachy Italian Trebbiano di Romagna, and my money on the French Picpoul de Pinet by Jean Marc Lafage, rocking hints of apple and lemon with a reasonably intense minerality. They're both choice picks, the Picpoul nicely suiting my next course of roasted sea bass, which is quick to flake apart and comes with macadamia nut gnocchi, an oblong of pink cauliflower 'couscous' decorated with photo-friendly purple pansies, a quarter-bulb of fennel and curried fondant potato. The Asian flavours are, in general, more discernible than the more subtle German nuances, except in C's crusted pork cutlet – one of Johann's signature dishes – which is a generous portion partnered by a peppery lemon bean ragout, crispy bacon and potato 'pebbles'.

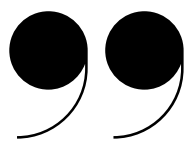
Of course, we'd expected more 'fine dining' than 'filling', so we take a much-needed moment to prepare for dessert and absorb our current milieu – charcoal feature walls and sandy-hued sofa-style seating thanks to New York's Champalimaud Design; archways leading into a specialist gin bar, and vibrant artwork by Bath Spa University students. "The feel here is relaxed but with all our usual high standards," says head chef George Schneeberger, who trained under Johann and is now taking care of the day-to-day delivery of his vision, between visits. "And we're using as many local and regional suppliers as possible – vegetables from Mike Eades of Bath, meat from Walter Rose, fish from Wing of St Mawes in Cornwall."

"We wanted to create *normal* food, with no more than three or four tastes on each plate," Johann chimes in, in conclusion, as we tuck into passionfruit-poached peach with almond mousse and an ivory orb of bourbon vanilla ice cream – it far surpasses 'normal' – and a beautifully constructed summer tarte with plump raspberries and teeny-tiny meringue swirls.

Often the deal-breaker for a hotel restaurant is whether it can be considered a destination in its own right, and with a doyen like Johann at the helm and an appealing, workable concept, we think this team may have hit the bullseye. **BL**



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DINING DETAILS Johann Lafer at The Gainsborough, Beau Street, Bath, BA1 1QY; 01225 358888; www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk **Prices** Two-course lunch £22.50; three courses £29.50 **Vegetarian choice** Limited on the day we visited, but the team will always cater to any dietary needs and preferences **Disabled access** Yes, there's a ramp up the restaurant entrance, and the accessible toilets are on the same floor too **Wine list** Extensive, and personally picked out, with several varieties displayed in a cabinet centrepiece **Service/atmosphere** Very smart but laidback and unstuffy



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Current highlights for me are **Landlord** - hoppy, bitter, citrusy and sweet all at the same time. It drinks half a pint better than anything else I've encountered. **Côtes de Jura** shows off just how versatile the Chardonnay grape can be when treated inventively. The spicy, smooth and meaty **german wurst platter**...and the honey glazed, **12 inch pork scratchings**. When we're not scouring the landscape to bring you more and more of the lovely stuff that's out there you'll find us in. Come and say hello.

Welcome to our home...

Jan Crinson



Brew it yourself

Local boys Richard Hood and Nick Moyle of the popular Two Thirsty Gardeners blog have a lovely, boozy new book out, *Brew it Yourself*, to help you swig through the seasons. Here are a couple of their favourite summer recipes, also ideal for beginners. . .

Rich's Sangria-ahhhhhh

(Makes approx 1 litre)

Making time: 20 minutes

Chilling time: 1 hour

"You can be forgiven for dismissing sangria as the quintessential, watery holiday cocktail, dispensed by clumsy holiday reps for those seeking solace for Spanish sunburn. For astute booze-ologists like you and I, though, it's a potent, infinitely customisable fruit salad in a glass that pulls ingredients from the four corners of the allotment. Drink with ice and a slice when the sun is shining... conga-ing around the garden is encouraged, but not compulsory."

Ingredients:

1 x 75cl bottle of red wine
50ml/1 3/4 fl oz/1/4 cup brandy
150g/5 1/2oz/heaped 2/3 cup sugar (see maker's notes)
25ml/3/4 fl oz/5 tsp orange liqueur
1/2 an unwaxed lemon, washed and sliced
1 orange, washed and sliced
100g/3 1/2oz/heaped 1 cup washed and sliced strawberries
1 apple, washed and sliced
A few rocket leaves
A few basil leaves, to serve

Method:

1. Pour the red wine into a 1-litre (2-pint) jug.
2. Add the brandy, sugar syrup (see maker's



notes) and orange liqueur and give it a stir. You could also add a few drops of orange bitters if you fancy an extra orange kick.

3. Add all the sliced fruit to the jug (reserve a few slices of lemon).
4. Add the rocket leaves – they will pep up the strawberries, intensifying their flavour. Also: it looks good.
5. Put the jug in a fridge to chill for at least an hour before serving with ice, slices of lemon and a couple of basil

leaves per glass for good measure.

MAKER'S NOTES: SWEET SUCCESS

To blend the sugar successfully into your sangria (or any other cocktail, for that matter), make a simple sugar syrup to avoid any undissolved sugar spoiling your booze. Use a ratio of 1 part sugar to 1 part water, and heat gently until the sugar dissolves. Leave to one side and add to your mix once cool.



Limoncello

Making time: 20 minutes
Infusing time: 2–6 weeks

“For years limoncello was Italy’s best-kept booze secret, but recently the rest of the world has developed a zestful love for this lemony liqueur. Among Italian traditionalists there will be precise methods and ingredients* used, but for the rest of us there are numerous ways to produce this delicious digestif. Our easy instructions allow you to make a pure, sweet limoncello or give it a sour edge. You can also choose between a clear or cloudy appearance.”

Ingredients:

Juice and zest of 5 unwaxed lemons
 1 x 70cl bottle of vodka
 200g/7oz/1 cup white sugar

Method:

1. Put the lemon zest into a jar with the vodka.
2. Although not traditional, we quite like our limoncello to have a sour taste. To achieve this, add the juice from the lemons to the mix – the more you add, the sourer the flavour. If you’re unsure, you may prefer to split the batch and try both options.

3. Seal the jar and leave to one side to infuse for around 2 weeks.
4. After this initial infusing time, you’re ready to sweeten the liquid with a simple sugar syrup. Put the sugar in a saucepan with 160ml/5 1/4 fl oz/2/3 cup water, then heat gently until the sugar dissolves. If you want your limoncello to be clear, let the syrup cool before adding it to the vodka and lemon zest. For a cloudy drink, pour in the syrup while still warm.
5. If you’re eager to drink your lemony treat, you can strain and bottle the limoncello after adding the syrup, although we recommend extending your patience by another 4 weeks. Even after straining through a fine-mesh sieve you’ll have lots of small lemon bits floating in the mix – but a second, slow straining through filter paper will remove these.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS:

Limoncello is best enjoyed neat, served ice cold as an after-dinner shot – so store your bottles in the freezer for the best results. It can also be used to give a zesty spike to cocktails and fruit punches, drizzled over ice cream or added to a lemon dessert.

NICK’S TIP:

If you can’t find a lemon that hasn’t got a shiny wax coating, fear not – it’s quite easily removed by scrubbing the lemon under hot water.

*The town of Sorrento produces Italy’s limoncello-making lemon of choice. This is a fruit so prized that it has protected status, meaning no lemon grown outside the town can be called a Sorrento lemon. **BL**



Extracted from
Brew it Yourself
 by Richard Hood
 and Nick Moyle
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 2015 published
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Among the events revealed so far is a cheese festival at Bath Abbey



FEAST YOUR EYES...

Organisers of Bath's forthcoming foodie celebrations reveal this October's initial line-up

Food-lovers will be flocking to the city this autumn to savour a creative menu of foodie events at the much anticipated Great Bath Feast, which takes place in October.

Plans are already underway for the month-long event, which will include tastings, tutorials, tea parties and a wacky after-dark Mad Hatter's Masquerade Dinner to mark the 150th birthday of *Alice in Wonderland* – within the suitably surreal surrounds of Bath Masonic Lodge.

In addition, for one night only, the Holburne Museum will be transformed into a gin palace for a sumptuous tasting extravaganza; The Fine Cheese Company will be assembling the nation's leading artisan cheesemakers at Bath Abbey; and Demuths Vegetarian Cookery School will be offering the chance to dive into the world of fermentation with Charlotte Pike.

There will also be the chance for Feast goers to learn how to forage for food in the urban setting of Bath, and Andy Hamilton, author of *Booze for Free*, will be doing a 'wild booze walk' with Independent Spirit.

Meanwhile Anna Del Conte – doyenne of authentic Italian cuisine – and chef Tom Kerridge are also scheduled to appear, and Bath baker Richard Bertinet will be welcoming guests including Ben Tish from the Salt Yard group and Dhruv Baker, author of *Spice* to his cookery school.

And there's much more – at Green Park Brasserie, for instance, there will be a cider and apple festival; a troop of Hartley Farm tipis will be coming to Queen Square; and beside Bath Abbey there will be a pop-up restaurant courtesy of Clayton's Kitchen, where you can watch professionals at work.

For more: www.greatbathfeast.co.uk

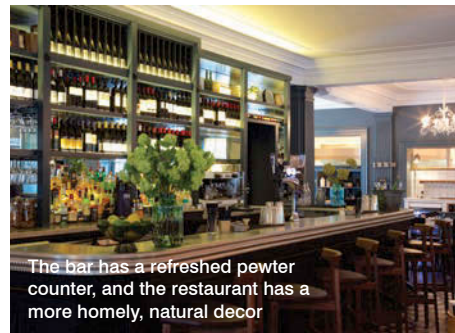
BLANC CANVAS

Bath's Brasserie Blanc has revealed a brand new decor and a menu that now includes breakfast, and is inviting diners to rediscover its restaurant experience.

Inspired by Raymond Blanc's own kitchen, there are now plenty of comfy spots featuring cosy armchairs, and a new alfresco terrace. The formal white crockery and tablecloths have been replaced with handmade ceramics, tapestry and natural linens to give a more relaxed, homely feel, and the general look has been kept simple, using authentic heritage colours to complement the chandeliers, plus bespoke lighting, booths and customised artwork from food photographer Jill Mead.

The bar has retained, yet refreshed, its pewter counter, flanked by walnut bar stools, while the new brasserie features an enhanced lounge area. The à la carte menu, serving simple, hearty French classics, reads like a storybook of seasonal flavours taken from Raymond's childhood and is filled with quality British produce treated with delicate French finesse. Brasserie Blanc is now open from 8.30am, seven days a week.

For more: www.brasserieblanc.com



The bar has a refreshed pewter counter, and the restaurant has a more homely, natural decor

The charred Atlantic prawns were paired with Howard Park Chardonnay 2012



A TASTE OF AUSTRALIA

Great Western Wine, in conjunction with wine consultant Angela Mount and Allium Brasserie at the Abbey Hotel, hosted a wine dinner with Jeff and Amy Burch of Howard Park Wines earlier this month.

Western Australia's largest boutique family-owned winery, Howard Park produces handcrafted wines from top grape growing regions Margaret River and the Great Southern. Since 1986, its philosophy has been to craft outstanding wines of great subtlety, character, balance and elegance.

A wonderfully matched menu was created by Allium's head chef Chris Staines – for whom Angela has developed a creative new summer list including Chateau Miraval, made on the estate owned by Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie. The menu included charred Atlantic prawns with avocado, seaweed and sesame salad – paired with new-style Howard Park Chardonnay 2012 – and smoked wood pigeon with cauliflower 'couscous', cauliflower purée and bitter cacao – for the Miamup Cabernet Sauvignon 2011.

For more: www.greatwesternwine.co.uk



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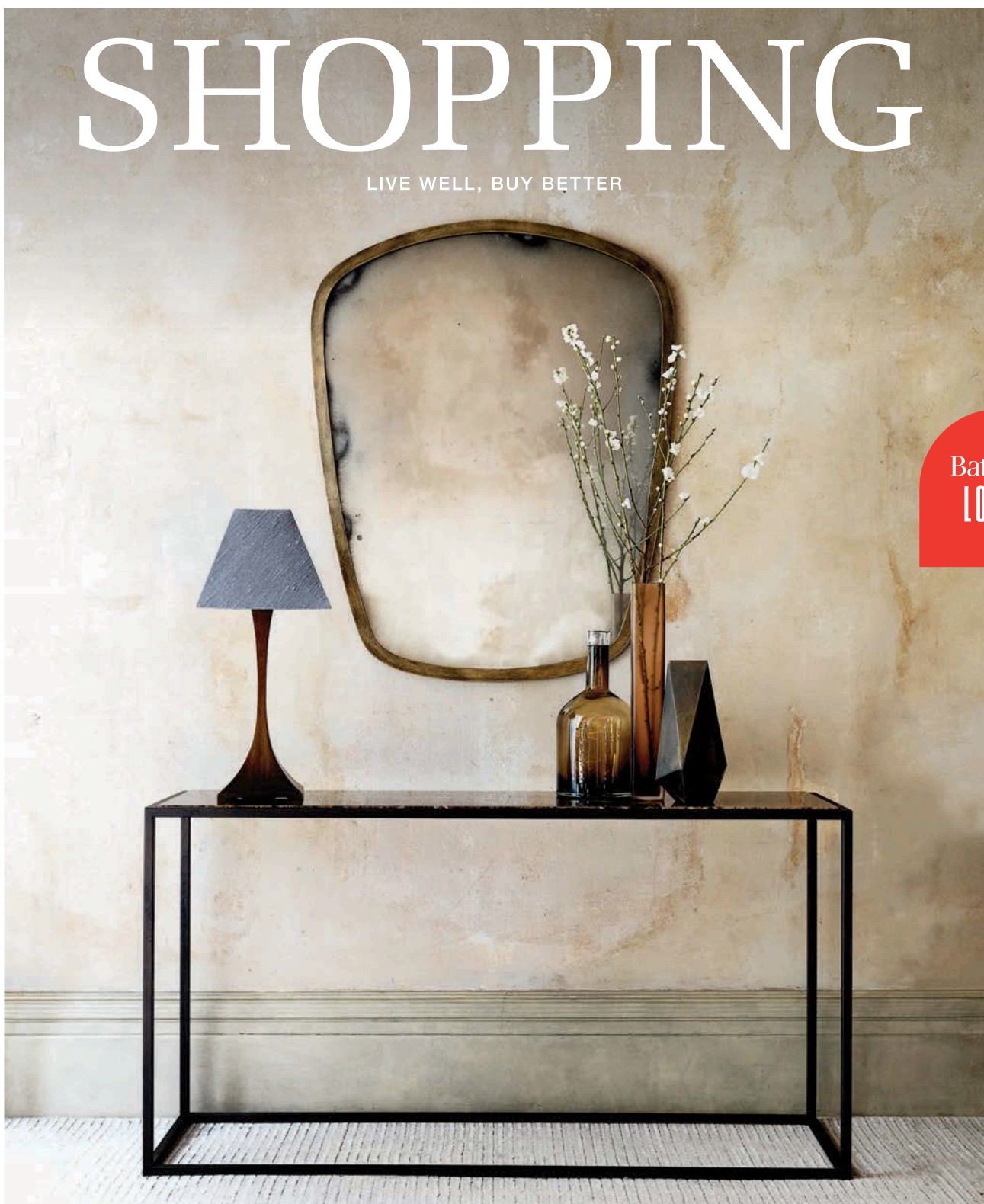


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SHOPPING

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WE GOT (CON)SOLE

An award-winning British designer, Tom Faulkner discovered his love for metalwork in the 1990s; and while the workshop has moved and grown with the business – which now has a showroom in the Chelsea Design Quarter – everything is still made in Wiltshire, close to where it all began. Tom believes that simplicity of line, shape, and proportion are the cornerstones of all good design, a principle applied to this beautiful console table with emperor marble top and a bronze finish. Smart, oh-so elegant and entirely practical, it can be made to any size and in myriad finishes to suit classic and contemporary interiors alike.

—
Siena console table by Tom Faulkner (145cm x 45cm), £2,040 from Woodhouse and Law, Bathwick Hill; www.woodhouseandlaw.co.uk



3

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www.articlebath.com

2. PRETTY IN...

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Farrow & Ball's 'truest' pink looks great with bright white, contrasted with soft neutrals or made to pop against moody hues

From Farrow & Ball, 124 Walcot Street, Bath;
www.farrow-ball.com

3. SWIT SWOO

Phospho owl print, £33.50 (unframed)

Printed on a silkscreen, in Paris no less, this glow-in-the-dark poster features a sleeping owl in daylight, which comes to life when the lights go out!

From Found, 17 Argyle Street, Bath;
www.foundbath.co.uk

4. SUN CITY

Fraas sea and sand silk scarf, £74.95

Inspired by the palms, shimmering waters and neon lights of Miami, this chic summery number will pep up any outfit

From Magpie & Bear, 7 Green Street, Bath;
www.magpieandbear.com

5. PINK SWAN

Fritz Hansen 3321 Swan Sofa, from £4777

Designed by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen in Denmark, this supremely stylish two-seater sofa is the ultimate covetable piece

From Shannon, 68 Walcot Street, Bath;
www.shannon-uk.com



6. IN FULL PLUME

Cole & Son Flamingos wallpaper, £72 (10m roll)
We've always had a thing for flamingos, even before they were really cool. . .
From Rossiters, 38-41 Broad Street, Bath;
www.rossitersofbath.com

7. ROCK ON

Amanda Marcucci pendant in fuchsia, £198
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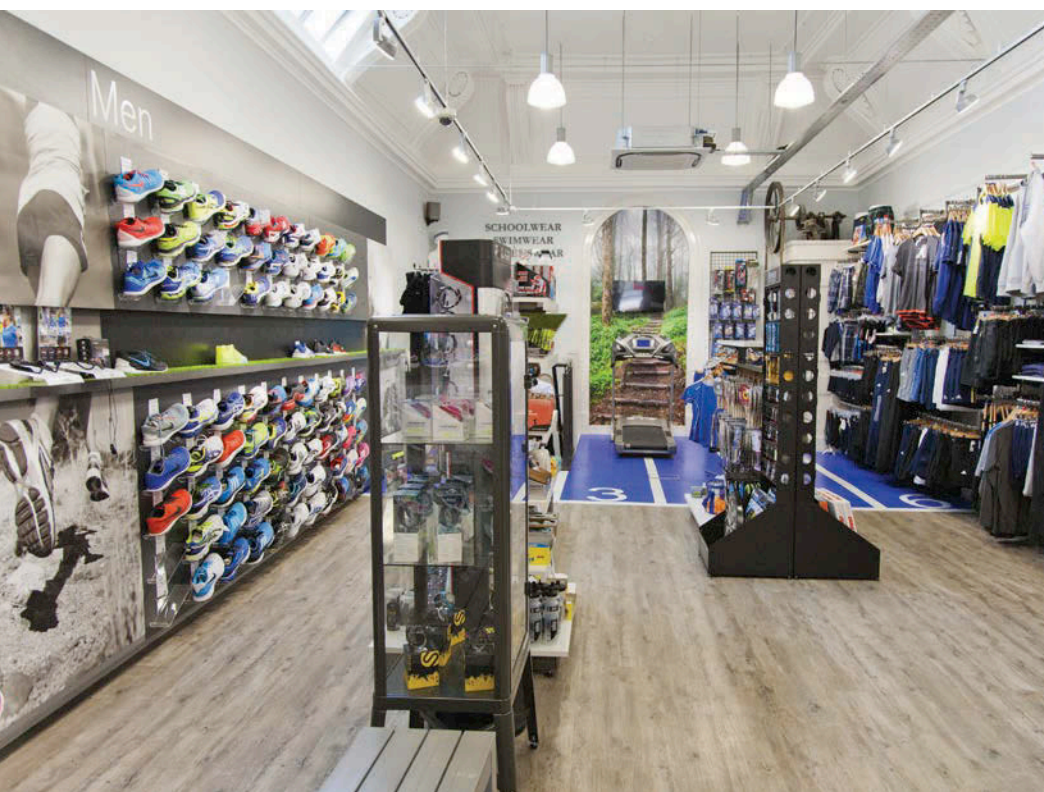
Mr Perfect mug by Wild & Wolf, £7.95
Pick your character to make a bold and bright statement with your morning – or afternoon – brew
From Bloomsbury, 15 New Bond Street, Bath;
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9. PINK LADY

0736 raspberry sunglasses, £310
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From Cutler and Gross, 9 Bridge Street, Bath;
www.cutlerandgross.com

10. FEELING HAUTE

Tom Ford lip colour in Flash of Pink, £38
The failsafe way of injecting a 'flash of pink' into your summer look with a single sweep
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www.houseoffraser.co.uk



JOHN MOORE SPORTS

By KATE AUTHERS

From shiny new premises on Argyle Street, a family-run business is out to prove that knowledge, service and shopping experience is far more rewarding than any click of a mouse.

Photos by Christina West

“**W**hat we had before was an old, traditional sports shop. With this move we wanted to make it a young, trendy, fun place to buy your sportswear,” explains Rob Moore, one half of the husband-and-wife team behind the business, first set up over the road by his great-grandfather in 1912. “The environment and shopping experience is much better.”

The shop’s pretty curved frontage, adorned with refreshed new branding, certainly belies the vast amount of floorspace and three floors within. “There aren’t many sports we don’t do,” says Rob, as we stand in front of floor-to-ceiling colourful displays of trainers, football boots, tennis gear and every accessory and running gadget you could ever want to own.

While things have moved on from the ferret muzzles they stocked back in the 20th century, there is a definite sense of combining the old – vintage tennis rackets adorn the walls – with the new, to reflect the heritage and history of the business. They’ve transformed the building too, making the most of its period features, revealing

the likes of the spectacular detailing of the original ceiling, and the lift shaft above a fitting room, during the five-month renovation project.

Anyone who’s spent any time in this store’s previous incarnation will be amazed at its new Tardis-like feel. As well as the menswear department on the ground floor, where they also restring tennis rackets – “really popular, post-Wimbledon” – and test your trainers and gait analysis on the running machine, there’s a substantially larger womenswear department on the lower ground floor. “We can compete with the likes of the high street sports retailers with the technicality of the garments,” explains Rob’s wife Leah, who’s taken a keen interest in ensuring their womenswear offering is up to scratch, offering brands from Nike to Skins, Moving Comfort, Under Armour and Pure Lime, with more in the pipeline for next year.

Head up to the airy top floor and you’ll find an offering focussed on cricket and hockey.

So how, I ask them, would they describe the shop to those who haven’t come across it before? “Bath’s leading sports and schools’ outfitter,” says Rob simply. “Customer service and going that

Above: Rob and Leah are the fourth generation behind this family-run business; there’s a definite sense of combining the old with the new; there aren’t many sports they don’t cater for



THE ENVIRONMENT AND SHOPPING EXPERIENCE IS MUCH BETTER



extra mile is key, we want to make the customer happy," he adds, giving an example of letting people take tennis rackets away to try them.

Perhaps surprisingly, for a shop called John Moore Sports, the business also includes schoolwear – there's an entire shop in the basement catering to Haywood Prep, KES, The Paragon and Prior Park – and with that comes embroidery and printing, also popular with local businesses, sports clubs and corporates. There's even a stand-alone rugby shop up the road, which, Rob tells me, is "gearing up now for the Rugby World Cup."

Hugely passionate and intent on keeping that independent spirit, and point of difference, alive and well, there are certainly no plans to stand still anytime soon, with new ranges, events and website improvements all in the offing. **BL**

John Moore Sports, 2 Argyle Street, Bath,
01225 466341; www.johnmooresports.co.uk



Kitchen ENCOUNTERS

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CASE STUDY #1



2 PERIOD MEETS ULTRA MODERN

Richard Carter,
MD at hobsons choice

"There are many elements of this bulthaup b3 kitchen by hobsons choice that reflect the common and up-coming trends in kitchen design in 2015.

"The room is designed with family interaction and socialising at its heart. The space has two distinct areas, cooking and seating, separated by a large mono-block style island. This arrangement of furniture allows the family to cook while spending time together.

"Unusually, large porcelain tiles run throughout the house and the large swathes of flat colour create a warm neutral base tone and long geometric lines that run the length of the interior.

"Handleless drawers, with 'touch to open' functionality, along the 'cook run' make accessing utensils or ingredients with mucky hands easy. The simple nudge of a knee, hip or clean side of a hand is all that is required.

"A sink mounted instant-boiling hot water tap from Quooker is the one appliance many of our clients can't believe they ever did without. Pasta and vegetables start cooking immediately or cups of tea can be made in seconds, without the need for a kettle cluttering up the work surfaces.

"We love this room because it is the epitome of modern contemporary kitchen design working perfectly in a historic period property.

"Our design consultants relish the unique challenges often associated with creating luxury kitchens for older buildings. In this instance it was the clever design of the mono-block island that overcame potential access issues. The finished kitchen works so well because it was designed hand-in-hand with the clients. The layout, the handleless appearance, the cooking functionality, the property and their lifestyle considerations all came together to shape a space that fulfils every part of their brief."

www.hobsonschoice.uk.com

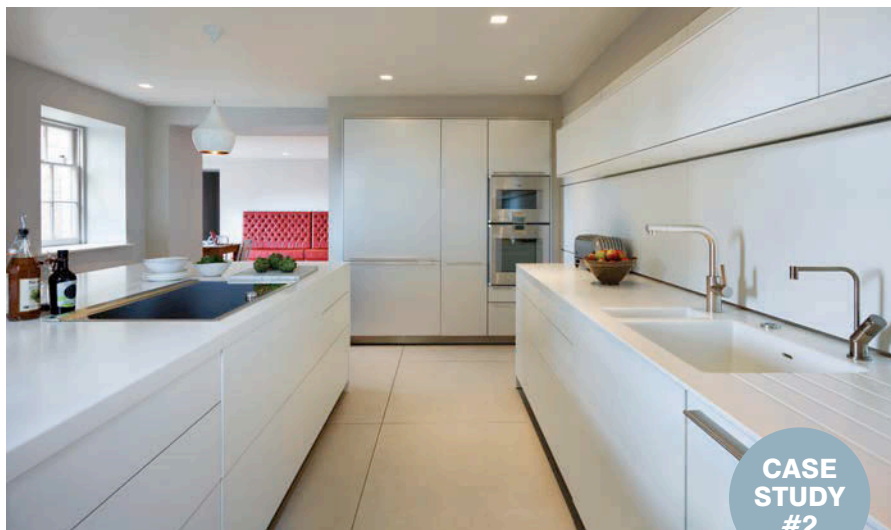
3 THE SOCIAL KITCHEN

Stephen Graver,
owner at Stephen Graver

"This kitchen project is in a beautiful Georgian villa in Bath and taps into the current trends of having an open-plan living space, which sits at the heart of home and works for all members of the family, including the dog! The kitchen needed to be practical and family-orientated as well as being stylish and elegant.

"Where it used to be tucked into a small corner, the kitchen now opens up into the rear garden room and we introduced an 'East Coast' – hand-painted, cool grey American style combined with stainless steel features.

"The first time I went to the house there was a multitude of specialists involved, such as an ▶



CASE STUDY #2

From the top: This kitchen in Clifton is a masterclass in how to retain period features within a contemporary scheme; this room, with striking bulthaup b3 kitchen, has been designed with family interaction and socialising at its heart

1 CLEAN LINES, HISTORIC SETTING

Ben Argent, owner at Ben Argent Design

"We love the proportion of this room, the simple palette of colour and attention to detail in the layout, material finishes and subtle use of texture. Although the property underwent a major renovation, the key period features such as the window shutters and ceiling cornices have been retained. The roof light above the main counter top was created as a striking new feature, so we decided not to interrupt this with any wall-mounted cupboards above. Instead, we designed a generous amount of storage into the full-height tower units opposite. Half the depth of these units was recessed into the wall behind to minimise their protrusion and provide a more integrated design aesthetic. You may also notice we aligned the face of the tower units with the step down into the adjacent study – providing a purposeful visual line extending through the joinery element and floor beyond.

"The colour scheme is simple; dark grey resin floor, light grey walls and white kitchen fronts. We felt it was important to introduce a little texture and natural warmth, so we applied a vertical linear-grained ColourCore laminate to the door fronts, with exposed birch ply edges and machined finger-pull details. The birch ply theme was echoed through the window surrounds and a built-in wall cupboard."

www.benargentdesign.com

“GET THE SHAPE RIGHT FIRST AND THE OTHER ELEMENTS WILL FOLLOW”

interior designer, an architect, a surveyor and a builder – each person had their suggestions, but having looked at the space and what the possibilities were, I suggested thinking outside the box. I was able to draw on my experience with bespoke-built kitchens and had a strong influence in the end product by creating a light and airy space with a beautiful central island as the focus. There were planning restrictions, but starting from an uncompromised design, we were able to deliver this fantastic space for the client.

“At the outset, do not think about planning or budget restrictions as you may well compromise the design. Explore what could be achieved and if you have to make adjustments, do it knowing you have looked at all your options.

“Don’t get too bogged down with the final finishes. Get the shape right first and the other elements will follow. For this project we started with the handles and hinges. Chunky chrome pull handles and hinges dictated a robust door and a strong frame to add balance and consistency to the overall design.”

www.stephengraver.com

4 ISLAND LIFE

Julie Mason, designer, Coppice Guild

“Islands have been a strong trend for a while now. So much so that most of my clients are building extensions or knocking through walls in order to create a space large enough to incorporate one. With all of us being so time poor, the desire to have our loved ones around us in order to communicate has become more important than ever. An island allows us all to join in and enjoy the culinary experience or simply to chat over a cup of coffee.

“Another big trend is the desire to shut things behind doors quickly – particularly pertinent with open-plan rooms and busy lifestyles where there is never enough time to tidy up!

“This room provided such a stunning before and after comparison – it went from dark to light. It is a good example of how you can take a traditional design and layout and bring it bang up to date for contemporary living. It shows how radical design can transform lives.

“It works well by showing that minimalism does not have to be impractical; worktops can be left clear by having enough storage close to hand and by designing cabinets that can conceal gadgets left on worktops behind closed doors.”

www.coppiceguild.co.uk

5 AGE OF ELEGANCE

James Horsfall, owner at Bath Kitchen Company

“Bath is the home of Georgian town houses, and we find that clients are seeking a pleasant living area, which serves all their needs for modern kitchen appliances.

“The challenge for the designer is to model a sympathetic interpretation to reflect the grandeur of the architecture, with the need for efficient



CASE STUDY #4



CASE STUDY #5

From the top: This room is a perfect example of how you can take a traditional design and layout and bring it bang up to date for 21st-century living; as well as being eminently practical, the pastel shades of this kitchen will never date

modernity. The kitchen is not just for producing food alone; the room has to multitask, and take on plenty of challenges in addition to its original function – we think this one just works!

“We love this room because as well as being eminently practical, the pastel shades will never date. It’s the perfect restful space at any time of day.

“In terms of putting your own scheme together, we suggest you don’t rush. It takes time to put a detailed design together. Our kitchens are a major statement within any house, and we want them to be right in every detail before we start to fabricate the furniture. We pride ourselves on creating honest, clear and simple designs that are made to stand the test of time, and it’s taken over 30 years to get here.”

www.bathkitchencompany.co.uk BL

KITCHENS DIRECTORY

The Bath Kitchen Company
www.bathkitchencompany.co.uk

Ben Argent Design
www.benargentdesign.com

Coppice Guild
www.coppiceguild.co.uk

FG Collier
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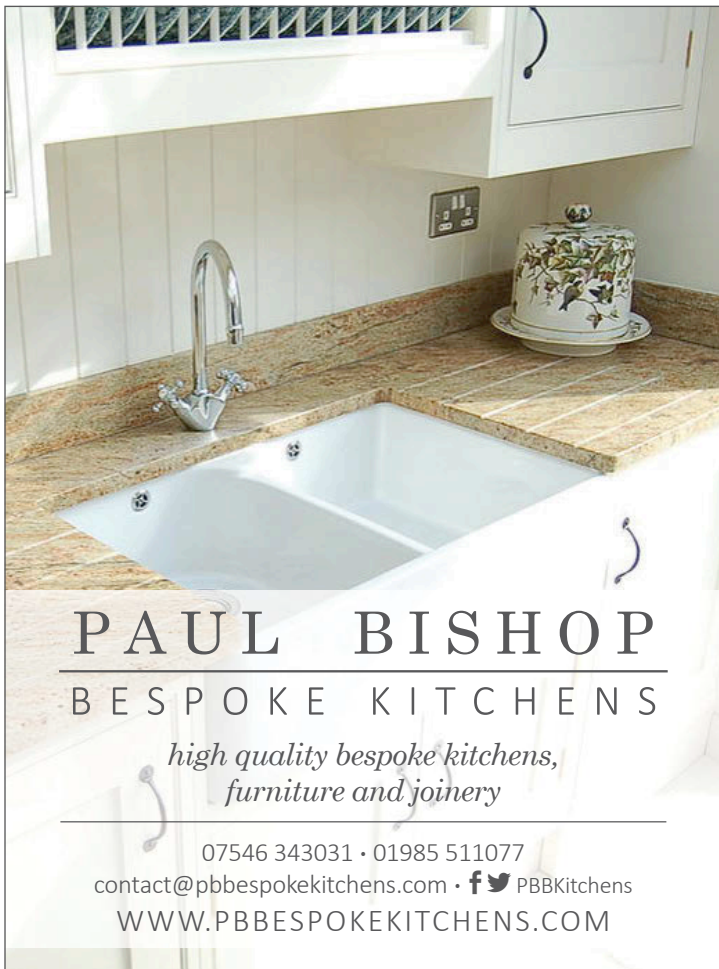
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Kelly Hicks, head designer of **HOMEMAKER BATH**, is very passionate about modern and traditional kitchen design and goes into all the finest details using hand drawn designs and 3D CAD software which gives her customers the ultimate wow factor

Since returning to Homemaker at the end of last year and overseeing the refurbishment and expansion of the showroom on Pulteney Terrace near Widcombe, Kelly has been steadily building on her reputation for combining the personal touch with vast experience in kitchen design, backed by the fantastic Hacker brand.

One point that Kelly feels is very important to make is that going with an independent kitchen designer can offer better value and both superior designs and products, as opposed to some of the big national high street kitchen suppliers.

"What's struck me is that the quality of the materials and details of design on our Hacker kitchens are actually better than more expensive national brands," says Kelly.

Kelly's past experience of working at different national kitchen companies has given her strong views on customer service. She also has extensive knowledge of other brands on the market which enables her to give clients the best advice when buying their kitchen.

"There's a requirement with a big kitchen showroom in, say, a DIY superstore, to process a lot of kitchens quickly to achieve turnover targets," explains Kelly. "Therefore the designers are under pressure not to



Head designer
Kelly Hicks at work

spend too much time on each individual customer and often lack the training and experience to come up with solutions and ideas that go beyond the off-the-peg units they retail."

By contrast, Kelly considers not just the units but the whole room. Kelly can advise and help source aspects such as the flooring and the lighting. Her relationships with architects and builders enable her to look at the structure of a room, and if need be, remodel it. "It's important to see the kitchen in the context of the rest of the house and how it works," continues Kelly. "It's about relationship building with the customer, taking the time to understand what they are looking to achieve and coming up with solutions to any challenges. Also although my chief supplier is Hacker it's important to understand I'm not tied to them as a franchisee. This gives me the scope to use any product, material or supplier enabling me to offer a vast range of styles to my clients at competitive prices."

"I really enjoy the sheer diversity of kitchen design. Every project is different and a unique reflection of the owner's style. For example, two recent projects in neighbouring homes saw firstly an industrial style kitchen and

"I REALLY ENJOY THE SHEER DIVERSITY OF KITCHEN DESIGN"

contrasting to this a Scandinavian style.

"Ultimately what keeps me motivated is the fact that every individual customer is a new and totally different challenge. My aim every time is to achieve the combination of a truly beautiful kitchen that is also completely practical and user friendly.

"To see my customers' dreams come true is the ultimate buzz".

Pop into the showroom on Pulteney Terrace to see and feel the quality of our kitchens for yourself. Call or email Kelly to make your free design appointment! BL



**Homemaker, 8 Pulteney Terrace,
Bath, BA2 4HJ; 01225 481881
homemakerdesign@btconnect.com**

Wild about meadows

Growing wild flowers in a neglected part of the garden
can transform the space into something incredibly
special and worthwhile

By EMMA BOND

“
THE
BEAUTY
OF THE
MEADOW
LIES IN ITS
WILDNESS
AND
DIVERSITY
”

A corner of a wild flower
meadow in Bath



Clockwise from above: A meadow creates texture and interest in a garden as well as plenty of habitat for wildlife; clover and buttercups – flowers that are often associated with wild flower meadows; yellow rattle – this wild flower will keep the grass content of the meadow in check; poppies will flourish in a wild flower meadow for many years

There is nothing more beautiful and nostalgic than a traditional meadow full of grasses and colourful wild flowers, and yet years of intensive farming has significantly reduced the number of wildflower meadows in the UK.

Over the years I have encouraged my clients to allow a bit of meadow into their own gardens, or at least grow some wild flowers to attract beneficial insects. A meadow can turn a neglected part of the garden into something incredibly special and worthwhile.

It is generally agreed that the very best soil for meadow flowers is poor and low in fertility to keep any competing grasses down. If you have areas in your garden that seem to be fairly hostile it might be worth trying some wild flowers there. A good idea can be to leave parts of your lawn unmown to let the grass get to its natural height and this way encourage any wild flowers to grow among it. It is not advised to sow wild flower seeds onto an established lawn as they will be crowded out by the grass.

A good way to slow down the growth of grass is to sow the area with a semi-parasitic wild flower called *Rhianthus minor* or yellow rattle – this will help the grasses you want to grow and gradually remove those you don't.

There are two ways to go about achieving a meadow, whether it be large or small and in your back garden. The first is to add in plug plants, which can be easily bought online from various suppliers. I tend to use www.meadowmania.co.uk. It is important to first establish your soil type as wildflowers are fussy and will not simply grow anywhere. It is possible to buy flowers to suit any soil type or situation. Plant these in close groups – about a trowel's length apart – for a perennial meadow. It is possible to grow these in modules from seed, which is a much cheaper alternative.

The second way to get your meadow is to prepare the soil by removing as many of the pernicious weeds as you can during the summer

months, particularly dock and nettles. Scrape the surface as much as possible to remove the grass and topsoil if you feel the ground is particularly fertile and dig in sand or grit. You may need to rotavate the area and leave for the weeds to grow and then remove the weeds and rotavate again.

Go over the soil, repeatedly raking until you get a fine tilth, and add more sand if the soil left seems heavy, to help the seed to germinate. Work out how much seed you need per metre and mix with some sand to scatter it evenly. Seeding is best done in the autumn, although it is possible to seed up to May and even through the summer if you are able to keep watering the area.

For a larger space it is worth including around 80 per cent of wild grasses, which can also be easily found at specialist meadow seed suppliers. A wild flower meadow seed mix could include cowslips, lady's bedstraw, meadow buttercup, ox-eye daisy, red campion, self heal, ribwort plantain, bird's-foot trefoil, musk mallow, white campion, wild carrot, yellow rattle and yarrow. This range of flowers would extend the season for flowering from spring through to late summer.

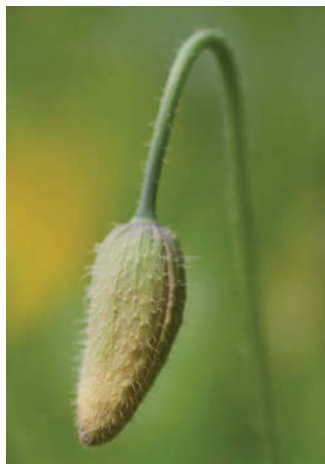
The poppies and ox-eye daisies will be the dominant plants in the first year and after that the others will have had time to establish and will be more visible.

It's a good idea to look around and see what else grows naturally in the hedgerows, fields and other gardens around and encourage these to grow in your meadow, therefore preserving the local ecology.

The beauty of the meadow lies in its wildness and diversity, but this takes work and careful management to keep it going year after year. It does need to be cut regularly during its first year to keep any annual weeds down, but after this you can mow it twice a year and allow the cuttings to lie and set their seed for the following year. Use your imagination to mow paths or shapes into the grass or an edge around the borders in your garden to make maintenance easier.

It will take time for the meadow to establish, but all this hard work and effort is absolutely worth it. **BL**

Emma Bond, Bath Garden Design and Landscaping, Orchard Studio, Old Orchard, 88a Walcot Street, Bath; 07968 727415; www.bathgardendesign.com
Photos © Emma Bond



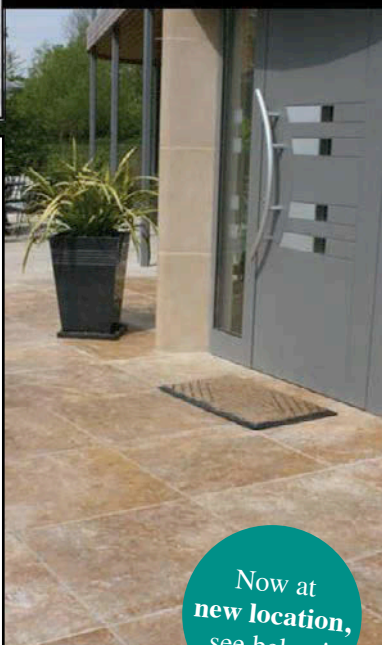
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JACKSONS FENCING NEWS, TOPICAL TREATS AND MORE...

Our Hampton Court show garden update...



Jacksons Secret Garden Party
Show Garden at RHS Hampton
Court Flower Show

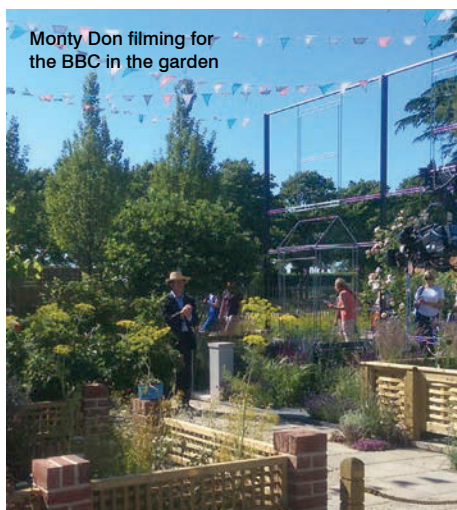
Any of you who are regular readers of this page can't help but have noticed that I've mentioned that we had a show garden at RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show this year. It would be remiss of me not to let you know how it went now that it's all over. I must admit, with more than a little relief, it's been a really amazing experience – very busy and pretty exhausting but, all in all, very positive.

The build up started on 10 June through

to 28 June and what was just a green piece of parkland was transformed into a stunning (even if I say it myself!) show garden. It was fascinating seeing our garden take shape over the weeks, and of course, all the other stands, exhibits and show gardens as well.

I got a bit nervy the closer we got to the show opening – the media appeared, we had a few interviews and even Monty Don was filmed in the garden, saying some very complimentary things about our Jacksons Secret Garden Party. And then in the afternoon of 29 June, the medals were announced. I'm delighted to say we got a RHS silver gilt medal, which I'm told is just a shade below a gold – not bad going for a first attempt!

I've put lots of photos up online for you to see, especially for those who didn't get a chance to visit the show, or see any of the many programmes on television that week. If you go



Monty Don filming for
the BBC in the garden



A view inside the
garden showing the
colourful planting



to your local page – www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/bathlocal – there is a link. There are also instructions on how to vote for your favourite garden – if you remember our garden featured six smaller gardens within our one big garden – you will be able to view gardens one to six and then email in with which one you like best. Someone will be picked at random from these emails as the lucky winner of £300 worth of Jacksons vouchers.

And talking of winners, we ran a draw over the last few months to win five pairs of tickets to Hampton Court Flower Show. I'm pleased to say most of the winners dropped by the show garden to say hello and pick up their goody bags. It was great to meet them all. **BL**

Visit www.jacksons-fencing.co.uk/bathlocal or call 0800 408 4754 to talk to your local Jacksons Fencing Centre louise@jacksons-fencing.co.uk



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Sally is keen to see the school develop into a thriving coeducational community

it to take readings; it had fantastic views over London. We also had open fires in our classrooms and used to bring in potatoes to bake in the ashes in winter.

Stonar will be welcoming boys from 2016 – what was the reason for this move?

Women and men need to work effectively together in Western society and should learn to do this at school. We have found that parents and pupils increasingly want coeducation and we think both boys and girls will benefit from what Stonar has to offer.

MASTERMIND

SALLY DIVALL, the new head at Stonar School, on fostering creativity, being part of the NACE group, and future plans

What's your background?

I grew up in London and studied science at Cambridge University before going on to work in business and in research and then moving into teaching. I live in Bath and have two grown-up daughters; in my spare time I like to be out of doors and take advantage of the holiday periods to go mountain walking.

Why Stonar?

In many ways Stonar is like a family where pupils (and staff) have a variety of outstanding sporting, artistic and academic talents. There is a real emphasis on each pupil developing as an individual to become the best he or she can be both personally and academically, and our staff go out of their way to support each child in this.

What would you say is your personal educational philosophy?

Academically, I want pupils to remain curious and open-minded, to learn to think, question, debate and argue logically and enjoy doing so. Alongside this, it is also important to foster creativity and for pupils to develop the personal and interpersonal qualities that will equip them to flourish in and contribute to the modern world.

What do you aim to achieve during your tenure at Stonar?

This is a very exciting time for Stonar. I want to see the school develop as a thriving coeducational community where pupils grow up to be confident and caring young people who are at home in an international world.

Tell us a little about the NACE developments happening at the school

Stonar became part of Nuevo Agora Centros Educativos two years ago and is now part of a larger community with schools in Spain, France and India. We are working with NACE to develop our facilities and build up international links for our pupils.

What opportunities will students have?

A programme of activities with our fellow NACE schools is becoming established, giving pupils a chance to meet, collaborate and make friends with their international counterparts. Our Rider Development Programmes for keen riders continue to be popular. These are based in the equestrian centre and allow pupils to take lessons in riding and stable management, integrated into the school day. Some pupils keep their horses at Stonar and may work towards British Horse Society qualifications. As well as GCSE and A Level courses we have an extensive programme of after-school and boarders' activities including sports matches, drama productions, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and a sixth form trip, where pupils take part in building a house for a Romanian family. In the classroom, pupils will have the opportunity to use modern technology such as iPads and 3D printing. We have also recently started archery and Japanese.

Your own fondest school memory?

It would probably involve doing science experiments that might now be considered too risky. I remember we had a weather station on our school roof and had to climb out onto

“WOMEN AND MEN NEED TO WORK EFFECTIVELY TOGETHER IN WESTERN SOCIETY AND SHOULD LEARN TO DO THIS AT SCHOOL”

How are the preparations coming along?

We already have boys in our prep school so no major changes are required. We will be upgrading some boarding accommodation to accommodate senior boys over this summer holiday and then making additional changes to improve sports facilities for boys and girls over the following year. We are grateful for the input from parents of boys currently in the prep school in helping us ensure that we have everything in place.

What events are you excited about?

The NACE inter-schools events coming up. We are currently organising our second exchange to one of the NACE schools in Barcelona for pupils in years five to seven and are looking forward to taking part in international music and debating events. Next summer, Stonar will be hosting the inter-schools sports event the NACE Olympics, when boys and girls from France and Spain will visit us for a three-day sports tournament. **BL**

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BATH GETS SERIOUS



PHOTO BY TOM SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

DEVELOPMENT

DEMOLITION MAN

The RUH's pioneering new centre is one step closer to completion thanks to local entrepreneur James Dyson

The Royal United Hospital in Bath welcomed Sir James and Lady Deirdre Dyson last month, to celebrate a key milestone in the hospital's redevelopment programme, which will lead to the opening of a pioneering new cancer centre.

The James Dyson Foundation generously donated £4million in 2013 to the hospital's charity The Forever Friends Appeal, to help drive their cancer care campaign, which is aiming to raise £8.5million towards the cost of the new facility. Sir James and Lady Dyson visited the RUH to see demolition work commence on the north side of the hospital site where the centre will be built – following a sequential redevelopment programme designed to relocate facilities without disrupting services and patient care. A new pharmacy and a combined therapies centre will be the first to be built in order to free up the space required to build the £27million centre.

With a sensitive design and state-of-the-art

technology, the centre will support the hospital's bespoke holistic approach to care for patients and their families. The new therapeutic building is being thoughtfully designed to promote health and wellbeing, reduce stress and anxiety and ultimately enhance the long-term survivorship of those patients with cancer. The RUH believes the new centre will also provide a model for the provision of cancer care throughout the UK.

"More than one in two people will develop cancer at some point in their lives and all of us will know someone suffering from this terrible disease," said Sir James. "The new cancer centre is a unique opportunity to give up-to-the-minute care in a welcoming environment. It's a project that thousands of people in the Bath area will benefit from – and a cause that I am passionate about."

For more: www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

"IT'S REALLY EXCITING THAT THE BUSINESS HAS THE ABILITY TO CREATE JOBS, TEACH NEW SKILLS AND CONTRIBUTE TO SOCIETY"

Loving the attitude, but whose is it? Find out on p74

£27.5m

THE BIG NUMBER

Things' impressive increased turnover for the year ending 30 April 2015

Find out more on page 77

ONE TO WATCH

JESSICA LANGFORD-SNAPE

The founder of The Organic Cake Company on a turning-point partnership, finding new premises to allow for growth, and contributing to society

What's your background?

I actually set up The Organic Cake Company with the help of The Prince's Trust charity. I enrolled on their enterprise programme, wrote a business plan and then pitched to a panel of three business experts for funding and a business mentor. The Prince's Trust have been amazingly supportive. Our company was formed about 16 months ago but it has only been trading in a big way for about eight months. The turning point was when I met pastry chef, Rachel Milsom, and we decided to work together. Rachel has a real talent for flavours and texture. Before that I was making wedding and occasion cakes but now we supply wholesale cakes and desserts to cafés and restaurants as well.

How's business?

On 25 June we moved into our very own commercial kitchen unit in Timsbury. We quickly grew out of a domestic kitchen and struggled to find a space in Bath that would suit the business. Now we have lots of room and huge potential to grow.

Has the business met your expectations so far?

Starting up has certainly been a challenge and a huge learning curve, but what an amazing journey it has been! The company

looks nothing like the original business plan. Things change, you meet new people with different skills and you find out what people really want. Cakes are as popular as ever and people have a real appetite for great taste, local food suppliers and quality ingredients. And you only need to taste our cakes to know that there are no nasty preservatives or flavourings.

How do you intend to grow now?

With our new kitchens we can start working with more customers in Bath, Bristol and further afield. Previously, I have had to ask people to kindly wait for us, until we could be sure our capacity could meet the demand. It's terrible for a company to have to turn away business but it is better to do that than let your products suffer. Thankfully, we no longer have that problem – well, for a while at least...

What's new?

We are always creating new cakes. We like to use the seasons to help influence the flavours. We have a new range of celebration cakes for birthdays and other occasions, including gluten-free chocolate truffle cake and lemon drizzle cake with vanilla buttercream and lemon curd roses. More and more frequently we are asked for gluten-free, sugar-free, dairy-free cakes. Everyone is more aware of what they eat and their specific intolerances. We're always expanding our gluten-free and vegan range.

Plans for the next year?

I am really looking forward to prospect of recruiting bakers over the next year. I would like to involve young people through apprenticeships. It's a really exciting prospect that the business has the ability to create jobs, teach new skills and contribute to society.



Jessica was able to turn her passion into a career with the help of The Prince's Trust

What do you love about this area?

I love the West Country and couldn't imagine a better place to start a cake business. I'm from south Somerset originally so Bath feels like home to me. The local produce is the best you can get, from the fresh fruit and veg to the creamy butter. Plus, everyone is so friendly. When I do my morning deliveries in the van, I feel like I am going to visit all of my friends.

Perfect Saturday in Bath?

The best Saturday I have ever had in Bath was at the Bath Boules event in June. Boules is a surprisingly exciting sport and it was a great networking opportunity. There were also some wonderful local food and drink producers at the event. If I could do that every Saturday I would be in heaven.

Which local businesses do you admire?

I would have to say my Auntie Angela who set up her online organic skincare brand 'Angela Langford' in Somerset. Angela's products are amazing and she was a massive inspiration for me setting up my business. She is also an incredible cook and was a finalist with Bath's very own Ping Coombes on last year's MasterChef. Both Ping and Angela are very capable, lovely women who you could not help but admire.

Surprise us...

I can draw. Before The Organic Cake Company I used to draw people's pets and houses. But you can't eat a drawing, so I'm much happier now!



Jessica's blueberry polenta cake

For more: www.theorganiccakecompany.co.uk

MOVERS, SHAKERS, ETC



The Rotary Club of Bathavon entered Bike Bath's biggest team

On their bikes!

With a team of 24 cyclists, the Rotary Club of Bathavon – who were collectively fundraising for Great Western Air Ambulance – entered the biggest team of Bike Bath's recent event, held on 5 July. Led by Alison Patrick and Val Mason, their joint presidents for this year, most of the team cycled either 25 or 50 miles, with one team member even completing the 80-mile route. "It was a challenging ride, particularly for those who came back in the rain," commented Val Mason. "But all 24 of us really enjoyed the day and are pleased to announce that all sponsorship raised will be going to the Great Western Air Ambulance charity."

www.bathavonrotary.uk

Climbing aboard

Award-winning London Road design consultancy Hibbert Harwood has recruited a new designer to help with their growing client list. Joe Brown, a graduate from Bath Spa University, studied graphic communication design and has a particular interest in Typophoto. "Joe is a designer who can work across all media platforms and he's a good self starter," said managing director Sophie Hibbert. "We are pleased to have him on board."

www.hibbert-harwood.com



BATH RUGBY NEWS

Bringing you the latest from the Bath Rugby headquarters

Bath Rugby's community team are to hold a free family rugby festival on 8 August to officially launch the club's historic 150th anniversary year.

The Recreation Ground will be the festival venue, hosting a day of fun rugby activities plus plenty of food and drink and concession stands located around the ground. Along with Tots Tag and touch rugby for the kids, there will game-specific clinics delivered by key members of the club, including first team players and coaches. A series of insightful question-and-answer sessions – focusing on nutrition, strength and conditioning and the Academy system – will culminate in a question-and-answer session with head coach Mike Ford. There will also be an exclusive

“THERE WILL BE GAME-SPECIFIC CLINICS DELIVERED BY KEY MEMBERS OF THE CLUB”

behind-the-scenes tour of the team changing rooms.

Also marking the launch of the celebrations, Bath and North East Somerset Council unveiled a striking new 3D floral display in Parade Gardens, made up of around 8,000 plants and flowers and

featuring a rugby player about to kick a ball, wearing the distinctive hooped Bath Rugby jersey. The character was created by eight members of the horticultural team over a period of two months.

"As a club, we are honoured to have a display

of one of our players on show in such a beautiful part of the city," said Tarquin McDonald, Bath Rugby's managing director. "Bath wouldn't be the magnificent city it is without all its greenery, and the horticultural team does a great job in maintaining it."

For more: www.bathrugby.com



Bath and North East Somerset Council also unveiled a floral display to launch the celebrations

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Bath Life AWARDS 2016

February 25th 2016, Assembly Rooms

Initial Sponsors

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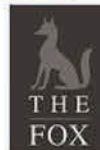
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www.bathlifeawards.co.uk



@BathLifeAwards

BREAKING NEWS...

FANTASTIC FOUR

Our pick of the most exciting, intriguing or important local business stories right now

GET IN ON THE ACT

The Theatre Royal Bath has officially launched its new Creative Fund, an innovative arts funding programme for the local area. "The purpose of the fund is to support the enrichment of local culture by offering financial support to innovative creative projects," said chairman Leonard Pearcy. "We'll consider projects involving theatre, dance, music, comedy, literature, sculpture, painting and the visual arts, including street performance."

The launch announcement was given to an audience of guests from the local community, each representing various dance, music, choir, art, creative, writing and visual arts groups. Greg Ingham, chairman of the Theatre Royal Bath added: "The Creative Fund will help art development in the Bath area in a unique and innovative way. We believe that no other theatre in the UK is able to offer financial assistance to



local organisations and we are very proud to be able to help in this way."

The fund has been created thanks to the success of Theatre Royal Bath Productions and its shows, such as *Bad Jews* and Alan Bennett's *Enjoy*. The deadline for applications is 16 October.

For more: www.theatreroyal.org.uk/creativefund

THAT'S CHAMPION

Bath-based doctor Rosy Daniel has received an International Earth Champion award for her outstanding contribution to wellbeing.

Dr Daniel – once medical director of Bristol Cancer Help Centre – has been looking at the environment and the impact on our health for over 30 years. She is well known for her pioneering and supportive work in integrated medicine, which has over the last 30 years been focused on cancer prevention.

"Thank you Earth Champions for this great acknowledgement of the importance of Health Creation in catalysing the wellbeing of planet and people," she said. "We love being part of the Earth Champions network and are greatly



heartened by its work to identify positive role models for our young people."

For more: www.healthcreation.co.uk

ALL RISE



Local commercial law firm Thrings has announced a second double-digit rise in turnover in as many years.

A continuation of the firm's client-focused strategy, modern and transparent pricing models and strong organic growth have all contributed to turnover increasing by 10 per cent to £27.5million for the year ending 30 April 2015. Total turnover has now increased by 28 per cent in the past two years.

The Top 100 law firm has also appointed four new partners and six new associate solicitors, half of whom joined as trainees. Commercial and corporate finance lawyer John Richardson,

property dispute resolution specialist Gemma Featonby, agriculture litigation and business crime expert Russell Reeves and private property solicitor Bill Thomas increase the size of Thrings' partnership to 63.

"This has been another extremely strong year of growth for Thrings in an increasingly confident and buoyant legal market and amid ever-improving economic conditions," said Simon Holdsworth, managing partner. "The new partners and associates have all made a huge contribution to the ongoing success of the firm."

For more: www.thrings.com

The tournament will take place on 9 August at Monkton Combe Cricket Ground



IT'S ALL KICKING OFF...

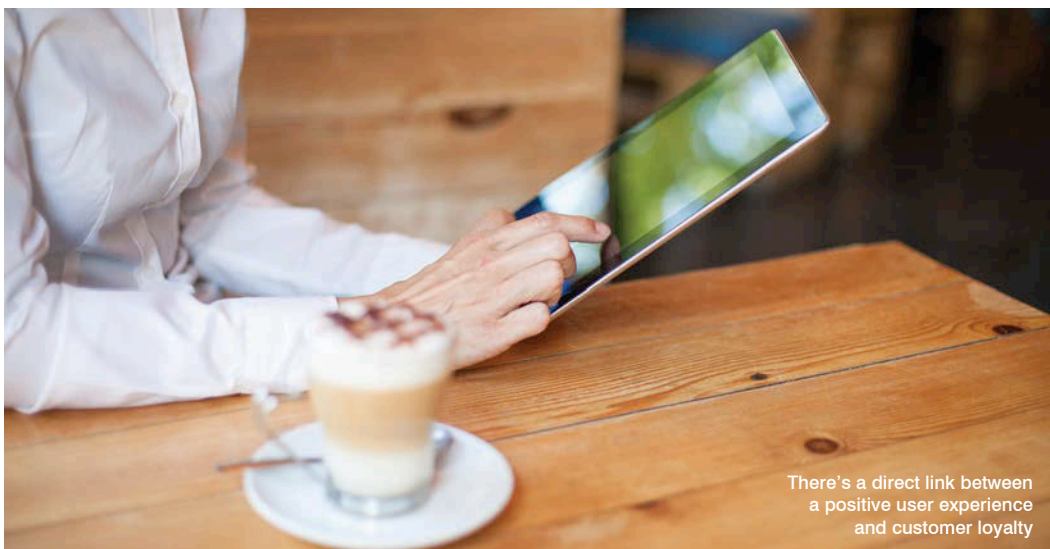
The Design World Cup football tournament kicks off again next month, on 9 August at Monkton Combe Cricket Ground, and will see some of the area's finest design, creative and tech companies going head to head.

Teams will be dressed up as individual footballing countries and battle it out in leagues to win the cup.

"The Design World Cup is just the most brilliant celebration of football and creativity – and beer, sunshine and, er, bunting," said Dulcie Carey for sponsor Creative Bath. "It's great for the teams: just competitive enough to matter, without being too competitive to rule out the less-than-entirely physically fit. And it's great for spectators: families, friends, colleagues, kids, sprawled out on a summer's day, eating, drinking, face painting. So come and join in with Bath's best creative businesses."

The tournament will take place near Dundas Aqueduct from 10am. Team tickets are still available.

For more: www.design-worldcup.com



There's a direct link between a positive user experience and customer loyalty

BRAND MATTERS
WITH MEDIACLASH AGENCY

FALSE STARTUPS

Fledgling companies really can be let down by the quality of their comms

People make mistakes. The music exec who didn't sign The Beatles in the belief that guitar bands were on the way out. He made a mistake. Neville Chamberlain waving about that piece of paper in the air, definitely a mistake. The Trojans accepting that horse-shaped gift from the Greeks was a mistake.

The thing about mistakes is how you learn by them. We've witnessed a lot of startup companies with big ideas and strong products falter due to the quality of their communications and, in particular, their website. To this end, here's a quick list of errors that can be avoided.

1 Everything to everybody

Don't try to achieve the above with your website, it's not possible. It's important to focus in on your own audience. Trying to attract the mums, the dads and the teenagers all at once will only lead to a site with compromises. Research your audience, understand their likes and dislikes, and you'll discover how to communicate with them. You only try to please those you need to please.

2 Blah, blah, blah...

Yes, if you're going to talk about yourself then it's going to be on your own website, but too much online gazing at your own navel is not going to ingratiate yourself to your online audience. Your customers are more interested in what you can do for them (tangibly) rather than discover the remarkable story of how you started the company. Promote the benefits of what you do rather than promoting yourself.

3 Design matters

Mistakenly, startup companies often don't see value in investing in design. This is a missed opportunity. In the startup world there's been a

culture of solution or technology first, whereas we believe in the value of a coherent look and feel. A brand isn't just a logo, it's every piece of communication with your customer.

4 Support your website

Contrary to some beliefs, your website isn't the magic button that will solve all your marketing problems. In fact, your website simply helps you communicate your message better. But you need to get people to visit your website and be aware of your message, and this is not possible without marketing. You need to market your website – enter social media.

5 Spread a little happiness

There's a direct link between a positive user experience and customer loyalty. Happy customers will spend more, more often, and will also spread the happiness among their friends. Your website needs to go that extra couple of yards to offer its visitors some kind of reward. This could be in the form of great photography, sparkling copy or even gorgeous design. Give your customers a reason to be happy.

6 Don't forget to sell

When people visit your website, they are coming because they found out about you somewhere, they thought you had something to offer them and they want you to sell to them. Don't put any barriers in their way.

At MediaClash we are experienced in creating effective websites that tick boxes for startup companies. If you want advice contact gary.tipp@mediaclash.co.uk and if he can't help he'll find someone who can.

THE BUSINESS FOODIE

David Hill at Mogers
Drewett Solicitors
shares his top two local
dining spots

THE HERD

GREAT ATMOSPHERE ON MATCH DAY

I was introduced to The Herd about a year ago before a home game at The Rec and was sold immediately. It's a quirky place tucked away on Argyle Street and always has a great atmosphere on match day, plus possibly the best tasting, melt-in-the-mouth rib-eye around. Marry the steak with their twice-cooked chips or special mash and a glass or two of red and you won't leave disappointed.

www.theherdrestaurant.co.uk



MARTINI RESTAURANT

CONSISTENT AND VERSATILE

I think this was the first restaurant I visited when I came to Bath, and it's always great. One of the things I like best about Martini is its consistency – the food is always fresh, the welcome genuine and warm, and it's the sort of place you can go for a business lunch, an evening meal or a treat for the family. I guarantee the menu will have something to please everyone. Keep an eye out for the seasonal fish specials – the sardines are a particular favourite of mine.

www.martinirestaurant.co.uk



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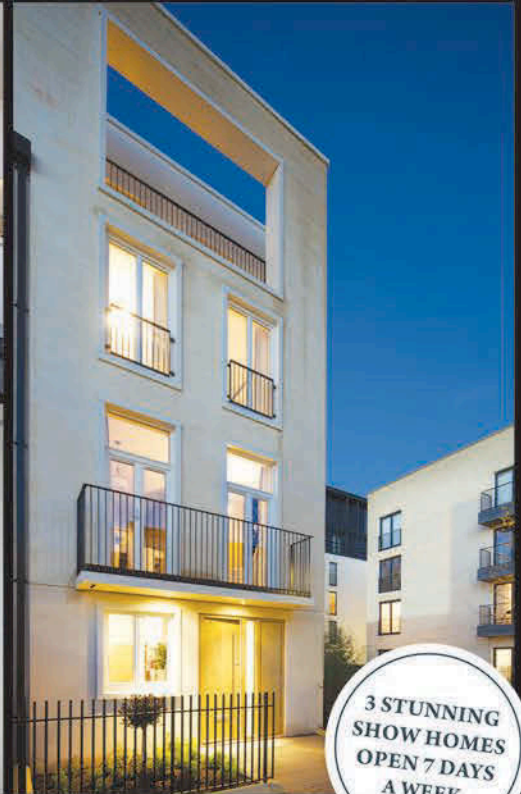
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“
INCLUSIVITY,
RATHER THAN
EXCLUSIVITY
IS CORE TO
OUR ETHOS
”

Above, left to right: Sarah Dedakis, Christine Penny, Jonathan Stapleton of the Royal Crescent Hotel with speaker Simon Morris
Below: Jo Duncan of The Royal High School



EVENT PROFILE

AHEAD OF THE GAME

The *Bath Life Business Club* hears from Simon Morris, headmaster of Kingswood School



FRESH THINKING OVER A FINE LUNCH

The *Bath Life Business Club* is a select group of senior Bath business people. It features a leading speaker – for example, Glastonbury’s Michael Eavis – and a damn fine lunch.

If you’d like to join, please contact Pat White (pat.white@mediaclash.co.uk).

For more information, visit the website: www.bathlifebusinessclub.com

You might not automatically think ‘business’ when it comes to educational establishments and even our speaker Simon Morris, headmaster at one of our finest local schools, was a little surprised by our invitation to the Royal Crescent last month.

“I opted out of an early business-focused career in the city to become a schoolteacher, only to find myself some years later, probably by accident more than design, heading up an organisation which has, like other schools of its kind, had to become intelligently business-focused,” he revealed to our audience.

Independent schools have evolved to act like businesses; operating in a competitive world with demanding, high-spending customers. Yet the ethos and academic values have to remain central. So how do schools, these centuries-old, clever businesses, balance it all and manage to thrive?

Simon described Kingswood as “a not-for profit, service-providing business,” with the benefits – and also the obligations – of charitable status. Their turnover is in the region of £15million, the majority of which comes through fees, “a sensitive market issue if ever there was one,” admitted Simon. He talked about their plans to target growth in commercial non-fee income as well as a more business-focused approach to fundraising rather than the more simple approach of hiking fees.

“Kingswood has become very popular; it is, in common education-speak, over-subscribed, so why not charge more, having employed a consultant to analyse the sensitivity of price increases to ensure overall pupil numbers will not drop? Well, quite clearly to us, this is about our mission and our values. The history of the school tells us that inclusivity, rather than exclusivity, is core to our ethos,” explained Simon.

He told the room that their mission to provide the very best all-round education has remained a constant, as has the belief that it is young people’s personal qualities which matters more than paper qualifications; though their commitment to helping pupils get those qualifications is absolute. The style of education may have changed significantly, but the core purpose and principles have not.

He talked of the business as an international brand with a global perspective, and the need for non-teaching networks; financial management, commercial development, HR and marketing. “More established teachers may be cynical about the growth on the non-teaching side,” said Simon, “but the truth of the matter is that the chalk-face teaching side has been well-provided for for years, while the business support side has not.

“Good business practice has taught us a great deal about the nature of professional development and, in turn, about developing a business through appropriate investment in people.” Simon explained that even the governing body is now made up mostly of business professionals rather than the traditional leaning towards alumni, friends and, in Kingswood’s case, very heavy representation from the church.

And what of the future? Simon spoke about the need to be “alert to change, and to embrace it in the same way the best businesses do.” There are plans to develop the brand overseas as well as forging exciting partnerships here in Bath. “We have much to learn,” Simon concluded, “but I feel we are at least heading in the right direction.”

Insightful, interesting and inspiring; you should have been there. . . **BL**

For more www.bathlifebusinessclub.com

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The heart of our business is investment management for individuals, charities, trusts and clients of financial advisors.

We invest on behalf of our clients on a bespoke basis, seeking the best and most tax efficient returns on their capital at all times. Our approach allows us the freedom to build investment portfolios that are appropriate for the needs of each individual client, without restriction or bias.

We believe our firm is attractive to our clients because we are small enough to be agile and responsive but, at the same time, offer strong resources, an unrivalled depth of investment expertise and robust systems and controls. From our 15 offices, based around the whole of the UK, we pride ourselves on always being there for our clients.

Based in the centre of Bath, the team is proud of its heritage, with some members of staff having been with the company for more than 10 years. Predominately growing by personal referrals from clients and financial advisers, this office continues to go from strength to strength with a current team of 15.

The Bath office was first established in 2003, when it was known as Christows. This company was a traditional stockbroker with offices in London, Birmingham, Bournemouth, Exeter and Bath. In 2006, the parent company (Evolution Group) purchased Williams de Broë plc from ING, rebranding as Williams de Broë



Rob Robson, Richard Sharman, Michele Rogers and Dean Hodgson

in October of that year. The acquisition of Evolution Group by Investec in September 2011 paved the way for the merger of Williams de Broë with Investec's wealth arm, Investec Wealth & Investment, in August 2012, which created one of the largest wealth managers in the UK.

Although there have been broad changes that have affected the Bath office, the core values remain the same. We believe if the culture of an organisation is right, then the rest will follow.



The team is headed up by Divisional Director and Investment Manager, Michele Rogers, Chartered FCSI, who also heads up the Exeter office. Dean Hodgson Chartered FCSI, Rob Robson Chartered CSI and Richard Sharman Chartered CSI complete the Senior Investment team, bringing together over 80 years' experience between them.

All Senior Investment Managers bring with a wealth of experience of managing private client investments, local charities, trusts and pension schemes.

Owen Jennings, Investment Manager, focuses on building working relationships with financial advisers in order to help their clients achieve their investment goals. Alongside Ryan Caines, Investment Assistant, Owen is currently working on his own successful client base. Jon Langlois, Investment Assistant to both Rob and Richard, is currently working towards a Masters in Wealth Management.

This focus on quality has allowed us to successfully expand the office; importantly with the right calibre of people. This year we were delighted to welcome Miles Nesbitt who joined us as an Investment Manager from Barclays. Miles has worked in the financial services industry for over 11 years; he joined Investec at the start of 2015 and before that worked at Barclays Wealth for eight years, the last two of which were as a Private Banker. Miles is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment and holds the full CISI Diploma, consisting of the Regulation & Compliance, Interpretation of Financial Statements and Private Client Investment Advice & Management (PCIAM) papers.



Ryan Caines, Owen Jennings, Miles Nesbitt and Jon Langlois



Last year we agreed, along with the Exeter office to sponsor the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. We are delighted to support this world class orchestra,

as it performs throughout the south and south west of England. Not only is the Orchestra of the highest musical calibre, but it delivers a vibrant education and participation programme,

We are delighted to call Bath our home and see this as a fantastic location for us to be. Our aim remains unchanged; to continue to build the office into the premier centre of investment excellence, which delivers the very highest quality personal service to our clients.

We would naturally be very pleased to welcome any new prospective clients. To discuss matters in further detail and to arrange a confidential and completely non-committal meeting, please contact Michele Rogers on 01225 341580, via email at michele.rogers@investecwin.co.uk, or in writing at Investec Wealth & Investment Limited, Royal Mead, Railway Place, Bath, BA1 1SR.



Teresa Mortimer, Jayne Holden, Maria White, Lisa Reynolds and Margot Forder

All Investment Managers in Bath are well supported by our administration & secretarial teams, who are the engine room of the office. Teresa Mortimer and Lisa Reynolds, both Investment Assistants to the team provide constant administrative support Investment, with Maria White, Margo Forder and Jayne Holden providing secretarial support. Mike Topham, Bath's highly regarded Business Development Director is supported by Sarah Down. Mike deals with business introductions from professional intermediaries in the areas of Bath, Bristol and Cardiff and works closely with all Investment Managers.



Mike Topham



Sarah Down

Everyone within the office plays a key role in ensuring that standards never fall below what our clients expect and what we aim to deliver.

inspiring people of all ages, irrespective of circumstance, living across the region. Each year the BSO engages 27,000 children and vulnerable adults and has recently partnered with Bournemouth University and BU Music to form the BUDI Orchestra, a music-based community engagement initiative for people with dementia and their carers living in the community.





Escape to the

Positioned in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with the views to match – could Lodge Farm be *your* ultimate rural retreat?

By VICTORIA PALMER

country



Lodge Farm is the sort of sprawling country home most of us can only dream of; it's in possession of lashings of history, heaps of character and, of course, the Instagram-worthy bucolic surrounds of the Iford Valley.

Once used as a hunting lodge, the oldest part of the property dates back to around 1420 and is thought to have once been the home of the park steward, who managed the game and parkland on the nearby Farleigh Estate – which, local folklore tells us, also played host to Henry VIII and Cromwell in its time. It's also been a gamekeeper's lodge before becoming a working farm in the late 18th century.

Fast forward a few hundred years and Lodge Farm in its current guise has been sympathetically extended and refurbished by its current owners. Surrounded by nearly 11 acres of its own land, the property sits in a beautiful, elevated spot, taking advantage of the breathtaking views across the Somerset countryside. There can't be many homes from which you can get a clear view of the remains of a 14th-century castle – thanks to the village of Farleigh Hungerford being nearby – and there's also an all-important local, The Hungerford Arms, which is just a short stroll away, via an ancient path.

History and location boxes easily ticked, the inside of Lodge Farm is similarly impressive; and first impressions of an elegant entrance hall with vast stone fireplace and polished stone floor set the tone for the rest of the house.

There's a guest room, study and cloakroom on this floor, as well as an expansive drawing room with stone-surround fireplace and direct access to the gardens. Our favourite bit would be the more-than-31ft great hall with double height ceiling, that also links through to a gallery, were it not for the contemporary kitchen/breakfast room to one side. If ever you aspired to a home for entertaining, this is it with bells on, and with glass doors and large

Clockwise from top left: The elegant entrance hall sets the tone for the rest of the house; the charming Grade-II* falconry; the fabulous cabin, built with those views in mind; the thoroughly contemporary kitchen

HOUSE NUMBERS

7,079
square feet of space

5
reception rooms

£3.95M
guide price

7
bedrooms

11
acres (just under)

windows aplenty, there's also a profusion of natural light.

From the kitchen, stairs lead down to the lower ground floor where you'll find a series of practical spaces – larder, laundry room, wet room/boot room – topped off with a sybaritic surprise – a sauna. You can also access the double garage, which has a studio above.

Upstairs, the same level of attention to detail can be found in the master bedroom suite, which comes with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, and occupies one side of the first floor, making the most of the vistas to the south and east. You'll find two more bedrooms and a family bathroom on this floor, and two further bedrooms and a bathroom on the second floor.

Back outside at Lodge Farm, this offering gets even more interesting. Not only are there historic buildings – not least the lovely Grade-II* former falconry, which offers the ideal guest accommodation with open-plan living area and kitchen/breakfast room, with two bedrooms and a bathroom above – but also thoroughly modern ones. A 'leisure' wing has been built to include an indoor swimming pool, gym and the like, and while much of the work has been done, there's the opportunity for any new owner to fit it out to their own taste and spec.

There's a fabulous wood cabin, complete with barbecue area, garden room and sauna, designed with those views in mind, as well as two further outbuildings, including an old cottage, and a modern agricultural barn with machinery shed adjoining.

And let's not forget the just under 11 acres here; as well as formal gardens and paddocks, there's a walled garden on the northern side of the farm which provides a blank canvas to create an amazing space around the house.

Dare to make that dream a reality? **BL**

Knight Frank, 4 Wood Street, Bath
01225 325999; www.knightfrank.co.uk



Wingfield, Guide Price £500,000.

A picturesque village home with excellent reception space and lovely gardens – essential viewing.

Here we find well-proportioned and well-presented accommodation in a quiet setting behind a five bar gate on Church Lane. The sitting room sports an impressive stone fireplace. The kitchen breakfast room is open plan with the dining room. A second sitting room leads into the conservatory. There is also a shower room. Upstairs are four bedrooms, study area & family bathroom.

If this house is special the gardens are even better! Lawns surround the property to three sides with trees & hedges offering a good degree of privacy. The garden studio or office is surprisingly big, ideal for hobbyists, artists & homeworkers. There is also another useful room attached to the double garage which is presently used as a library, again great for work or play! No chain.

Tel: 01225 866747

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Taking stock and seeking stock



FOR SALE NEWBRIDGE HOUSE | PRICE ON APPLICATION

As we have reached the half way point of the year, it's time to take stock of the market and make some predictions for the next six months.

At the start of 2015 there was a threat of uncertainty. After a record breaking 2014 in Bath, the prospect of a pending general election was sufficient to cast an element of doubt. Would vendors come to the market early, or would they bide their time to see what a new government would bring?

Despite this, Bath fared exceptionally well and to date has experienced some of the best market conditions in the UK. While the spectre of mansion tax was sufficient to cause a stir in London our local market was less affected. The predicted pre-election slow down didn't materialise in Bath, with the exception of a few select properties at the very top end. Since the general election we have seen the top end spring back into

life, with competition even at the highest price levels.

The sentiment among buyers has remained positive and this is set to continue into the summer months. We have seen sales increase by 30 per cent year on year on properties ranging from under £500,000 to over £4million. The ongoing challenge remains that demand exceeds supply; there is just not enough property on the market in Bath to satisfy the appetite of motivated buyers.

“The predicted pre-election slow down didn't materialise in Bath”

Luke Brady, Savills Bath

Improvements in the London market are likely to be sufficient to trigger a renewed ripple effect into prime markets beyond the capital, as those relocating from London find it easier to sell their existing home and take advantage of the price differentials with the rest of the country. Bath has been the stand-out market place this year outside London and we are witnessing this phenomenon first hand. As a result, there is significant competition for the very best houses on the market, with many would-be buyers left disappointed.

In terms of prices, despite some rumours circulating locally, we are not witnessing a post-election hike. The market is still adjusting to higher rates of stamp duty and the mortgage market review makes borrowing more of a challenge, so while the removal of the threat of a mansion tax is helpful, significant short term price growth will be limited. ■

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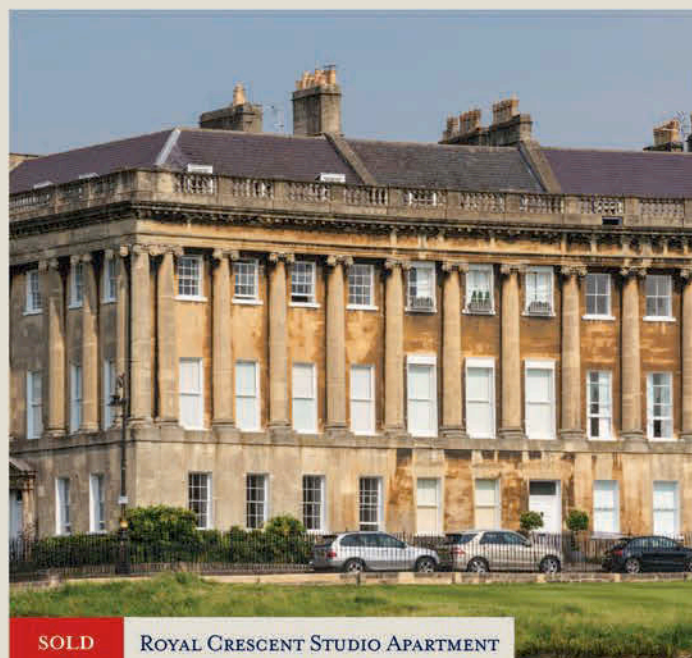
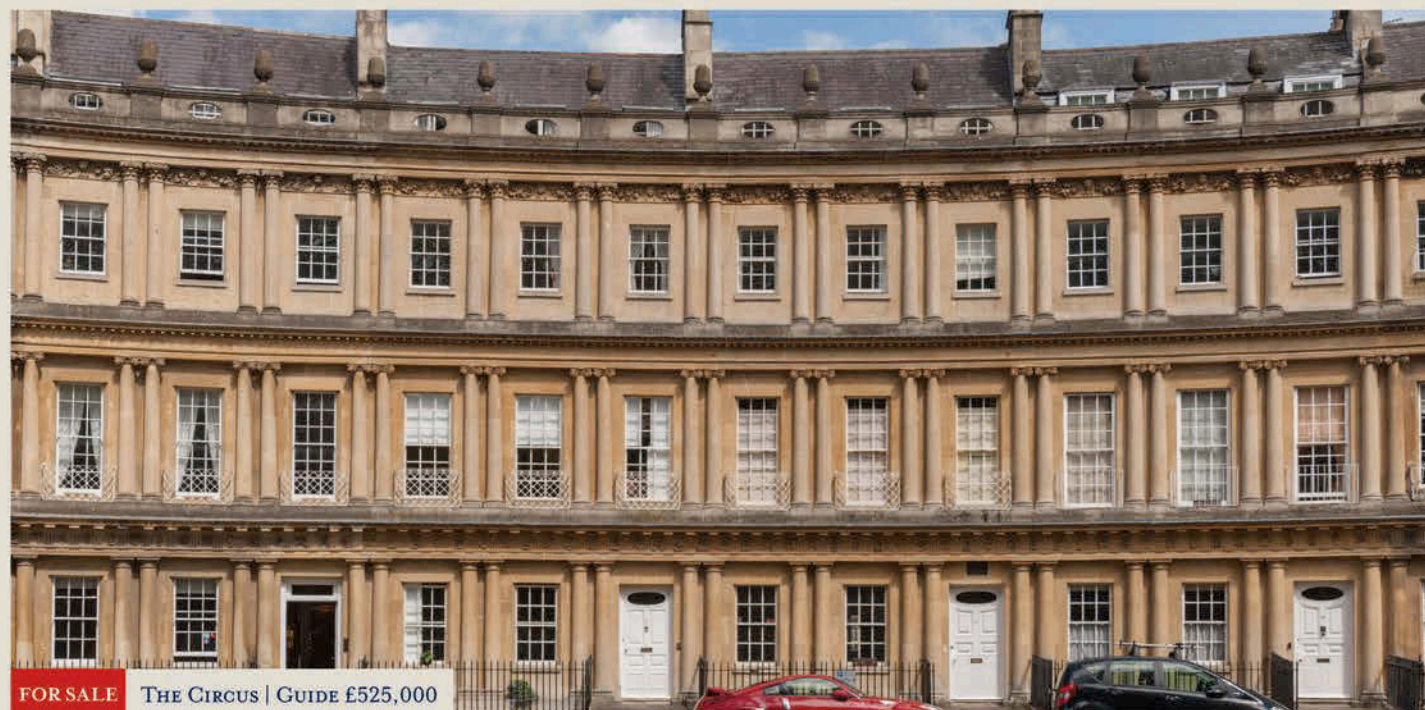


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Some of the properties for sale in Bath and surrounds in July



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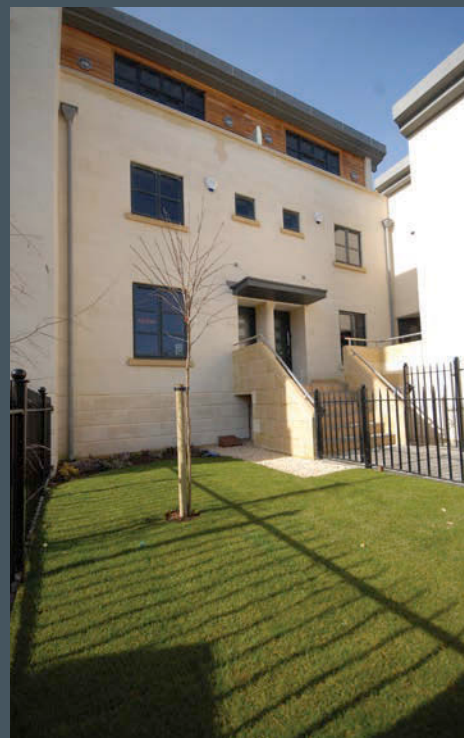
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EXPLORING BATH...

FRESHFORD

A rural idyll to the south-east of Bath, this village offers an attractive, varied spread of properties

Sandwiched between Bath and Bradford on Avon, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Freshford has no shortage of attractions for house-hunters. It seems it's always making some list or other – top countryside places to live and the like – and has its own primary school, GP surgery, village shop and riverside pub as well as a railway station making it easy for Freshfordians to help themselves to a slice of the Bath buzz whenever they fancy.

But this tiny valley-dwelling village whose limestone-built houses and cottages centre around an old brewery and mill, and are individually named rather than numbered, is so idyllic that some residents can hardly bear to leave it – with around 20 per cent choosing to work from home.

Rumour has it that *The Archers'* community-owned village shop was partly based on Freshford's The Galleries shop and café, which offers

loads of local farm produce, plus tasty tucker from chef Vito Albergo who runs the café and holds special gourmet evenings there – as well as running pop-up pizzeria Bianco Rosso Pizza Co in the Memorial Hall car park on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Ask the locals what they love – aside from their much-loved shop and popular pizza nights – and many will cite the weekly free jazz at The Inn at Freshford, which also hosts locals' nights and has lovely country walks in all directions.

Another draw is the village's community feel, and the many ways there are to get involved – you'll almost always spot a beautifully inscribed blackboard advertising local am-dram and other events. Recently many residents have also been delighted to learn that Freshford Mill is to be renovated into 21 homes by Environ Communities, and will become, once more, a key part of the village. **BL**

HOT PROPERTY



1 UPPER MOUNT PLEASANT £310,000

A three-bedroom garden apartment with picturesque views

Sitting snugly between the rivers Frome and Avon, this three-bedroom ground floor flat has plenty of character. Originally a cottage hospital and dispensary, it features a timber-hewn conservatory leading to a lengthy kitchen/dining space. The hard wood floored lounge offers a classic wood burner and a view of the vibrant garden, which has a decked seating area that enjoys far-reaching views of the slopes of the Limpley Stoke Valley. The property also has three bedrooms, one of which is currently used as a studio.

**Jeremy Jenkins, 27 Market Street,
Bradford on Avon, BA15 1LL; 01225 866747
www.jeremyjenkins.co.uk**



FORSTERS HOUSE £450,000

A beautiful four-bedroom town house enjoying a lovely quiet position

Tucked away in the village, this four-bedroom town house with Wisteria creeping prettily up its walls, has plenty of charm. The property has a generous living room with an exposed stone wall and fireplace with wood burner. The kitchen has a bespoke design due to the contours of the property, which is a converted section of the old brewery, and has handmade wooden units and a breakfast area. On the first floor you'll find the en-suite master bedroom, another bedroom and shower room while the second holds the generous second double bedroom, comfortable single room and a family bathroom.

**Carter Jonas, 5-6 Wood Street, Bath, BA1 2JQ
01225 747250; www.carterjonas.co.uk**



PARK HOUSE £860,000

An appealing detached five-bedroom house that comes with its own paddock

With views of the Westbury White Horse and a private paddock to boot, this three-storey property lays claim to a lovely living room with French doors leading to the garden, plus a dining room and a stripped timber kitchen with more French doors opening on to the west-facing courtyard, which itself has a mature fig tree and is a great alfresco dining spot. Off the kitchen, a utility room, cloakroom and wet room can be found. The house also has five bedrooms across its first and second floors – the master of which is equipped with an en-suite bathroom. An orchard and extensive gardens round off this beautiful hillside property.

**Crisp Cowley, 7 York Street, Bath, BA1 1NQ
01225 789333; www.crispcowley.co.uk**



Grosvenor Place

A smart and contemporary two bedroom maisonette occupying the lower two floors of a handsome Grade I Listed former Georgian townhouse. The apartment has been finished to a high standard throughout and benefits from a picturesque private garden and allocated off-street parking.

Rent: £1,800 pcm*

private entrance | spacious living room | snug | contemporary fitted kitchen | 2 good sized double bedrooms | a stunning en-suite bath and shower room | a fitted bathroom | home office | cinema room | cloak room | large private garden | off street gated parking



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*An Administration Fee of £420.00 inc. VAT applies.

A STROKE OF GOOD FORTUNE

When things didn't go quite to plan for these househunters, fate smiled on them and showed them Brunel Crescent in Box...

When Nick and Joy Lennon retired they had very clear ideas about how they wanted to spend their time. "We love travelling and we knew we would do a lot more of that," said Joy. "Maybe we'd even get a camper van and relive the old days!"

"That meant we were also looking for a comfortable and convenient home that would be good to come back to – big enough but not too big – secure while we were away and easy to manage when we were at home."

From the start, the Lennons had their sights fixed on a contemporary property, probably an apartment, for easy living and low maintenance. Having spent four years in a house with a big garden in Whitley, they thought they had struck gold when they came across a large retirement development close by, near Neston in Wiltshire.

"Even though there were a lot of apartments on the development and the service charges were on the high side, we liked the look of it and went ahead and reserved an apartment," Nick added. "According to the schedule, it should have been ready for us to move into in March this year but when the time came it was nowhere near complete – our previous

house had sold very quickly and we knew we had to move out."

Fate was clearly smiling on the Lennons when almost as soon as they realised the apartment they had reserved was not going to be ready, they discovered Brunel Crescent, a development by Blue View Properties, based in Box.

Joy knew that this was the one: "Brunel Crescent is a much smaller development – just 12 apartments and three penthouses – with lovely maintained gardens and a real quality feel. Almost there and then we cancelled the previous reservation and then within a matter of weeks we had moved into Brunel Crescent."

When we spoke to Nick and Joy at the end of June they were already feeling "pretty well settled in". With a little help from Blue View Properties' construction manager

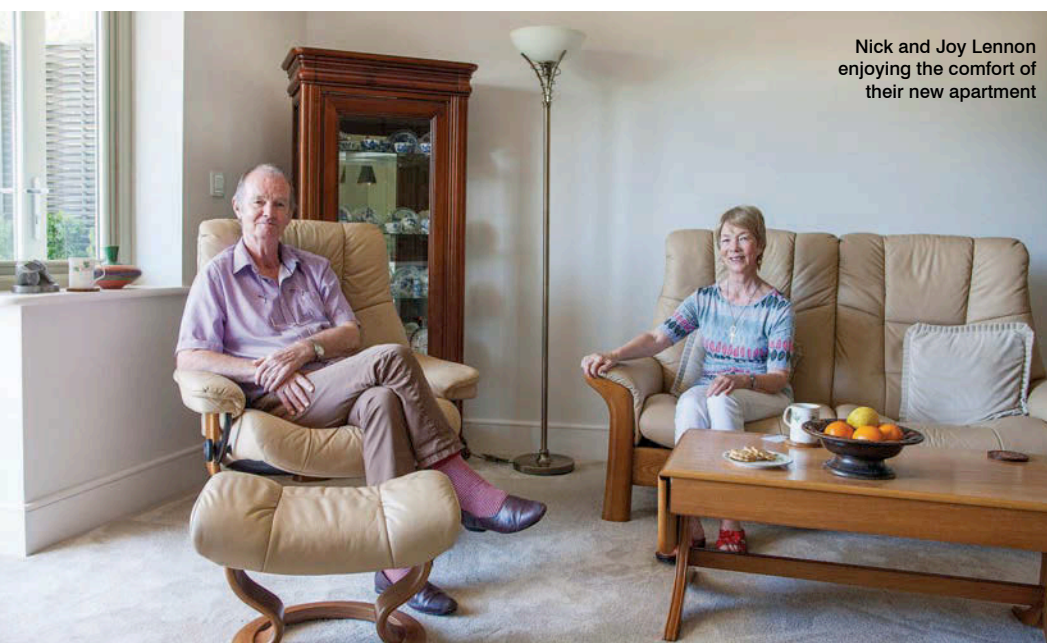
"WE'VE ENJOYED OUR PRIVATE BALCONY OVERLOOKING THE BYBROOK VALLEY"



Ewan Fairweather, the apartment had been adjusted to the perfect specification for them. "Admittedly we've had near-perfect weather since we moved in," said Joy, "and we've enjoyed our private balcony overlooking the Bybrook Valley, but we know that when autumn and winter come, the indoor environment with underfloor heating will be warm and energy-efficient. We'll be able to come straight up in the lift from the secure underground car park to our apartment without braving the weather. In fact we might find we like it so much that we decide not to travel so often!"

"The service charge is less than half the rate of the other development too, and included in that we have Debbie, the on-site concierge, who is always there to help if needed."

It's not surprising that Brunel Crescent is proving so popular. The luxurious specification and quality is unmatched in the local area and more than 75 per cent of the apartments are now sold or reserved. If you would like to join those who have discovered the pleasures of high quality living in Bath's countryside, don't leave it too long. Arrange a viewing at Blue View Properties' Brunel Crescent through the sole agent, Knight Frank. **BL**



Nick and Joy Lennon
enjoying the comfort of
their new apartment



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NEW RELEASE OF PENTHOUSES IN BATH

House hunters in Bath wanting to live the high life should visit Crest Nicholson's Bath Riverside development where a number of stunning new penthouse apartments have been released for sale

Located in Leopold House, and the latest phase to be built at the award-winning development, these properties are ideal for house hunters looking for the exclusivity of a top floor pad in close proximity to the centre of Bath.

The perfect retreat for those who enjoy a living space that comes with plenty of room, each one is light, airy and finished to the highest specification. Each features a balcony or terrace that afford sweeping views of the surrounding countryside and rooftops over the world heritage city.

Great for a bit of al fresco dining and somewhere to soak up the sun, these top floor retreats offer peace and security like nothing else currently available anywhere in the city.

Flooded with natural light through generously proportioned windows, the bespoke fully fitted

Alno kitchens are also finished to the highest specification while the properties are softly warmed through under floor heating.

Susan Young, sales and marketing director at Crest Nicholson said: "Differentiated from other properties by their top floor location and luxury features, the penthouse apartments that are now on the market at the waterside development are no exception.

"The penthouses from earlier phases at the development were quickly snapped up by those looking for something a little special. They are unlike anything presently available in Bath and offer a real wow factor.

"Penthouse living is all about the lifestyle. They are great for those who are perhaps moving from large family homes back to the city where they can enjoy all that it has to offer.

"With up to 1597 sq ft available, there is plenty of space to settle into a new way of living and we couldn't recommend it highly enough."

On top of the countless benefits a new property can bring, Bath Riverside also possesses a number of endearing features that has made it the South West's leading property development.

The city centre is a pleasant 10-minute stroll away via the pedestrian tow path, so residents can enjoy all that the historic city has to offer

without using a car, while commuters can hop on a main line train to the capital.

Susan added: "Epitomising why Bath is celebrated across the world for its luxurious living, these properties enhance the city's reputation for having some of the most striking and sought-after places to live in the UK.

"They also provide the development with its own distinctive style and elegance and a much more modern twist on the city's Georgian past." **BL**



For further information please call 01225 463 517 or visit www.crestnicholson.com/bathriverside

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A graduate of the masters in songwriting course at Bath Spa Uni, Stefansson is the moniker behind charismatic producer, and the latest talent to come out of Bath, Matt Woodruff. Here, we quiz him on everything from his unique sound to his favourite local hangouts. . .

Producing, songwriting, recording or performing – what's your favourite?

I generally love every element of what I do; I think songwriting has been my love for a long time, as I naturally like to express my feelings by writing melody. Though I don't think anything really comes close to live performance, because when you have a collective of people in a room who all love music it's always going to be a special experience.

Who or what inspired your love of music?

Music has always been an integral part of my life; I was brought up around people playing instruments all the time. There are so many people and artists that have inspired me to play and write music; but I'm really inspired by Porter Robinson's album *Worlds*. I love it when an artist isn't afraid to do something different even when it's completely different to what they became known for.

How would you describe your sound?

Probably progressive house with a pop edge; it's so hard to define genre these days with so much sitting in-between. Music for me is all about tension and release; I really love energy and I'm an addict of big pop hooks.

How has your masters degree at Bath Spa Uni changed the way you approach the creative process?

My time at the uni was amazing and taught me so much. I think one of the main things I learned was how to listen. It also taught me not to get too hung up on something too early on in the process; let it breathe and don't judge things too quickly. I wonder what amazing art the world has missed out on because artists tend to judge their own work really harshly.

Your first release of the summer is called *Start Again* – does art echo real life in this instance?

Absolutely! *Start Again* is the beginning of something new for me, it's like a transition to where I am heading; it really felt like the bridge between the music I have created before and the music I am making now. It's like standing on a ferry waving goodbye to your past, but being excited about heading into to your future. It seemed a very natural choice for my first release of the summer.

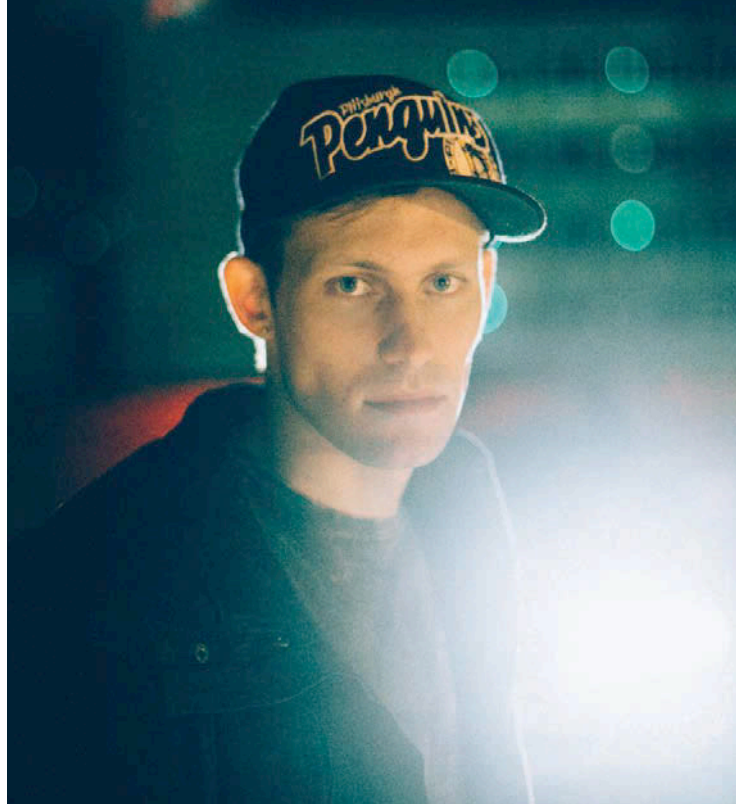


PHOTO © TOBY MITCHELL CREATIVE

MATT WOODRUFF

The local producer talks progressive house with a pop edge, new beginnings and *Match of the Day*

What are you working on at the moment?

I have just finished a remix of Bath singer/songwriter Rachel Jane's track *Rise*, she's definitely worth a listen, and also it was a lot of fun to take her genre and do something completely different with it. At the moment though I am working to finish loads of new songs, remixes and getting my live set tighter and better, and will be releasing my second track of the summer, *Collide*, in the coming few weeks.

Finest hour (so far)?

There have been so many highlights over the last few years but one of those would probably have to be working in the studio with Rick McNamara (Embrace), who was one of my favourite songwriters growing up. The first hour wasn't so good though – I was a bit starstruck! I'm really looking forward to what's coming up in the near future, as there are some really exciting things in the pipeline.

Which musicians do you admire and who would you most like to collaborate with?

Probably someone like Tom Waits; it would also be super cool to work with someone like Madeon.

What music would you put on at the end of a trying day?

Definitely something chilled out like Sigur Ros; music like this really helps me to relax and calm down.

What's your most treasured possession?

Definitely my Macbook Pro and my V-Moda Crossfades – I love the fact a pair of headphones and a laptop is all you need to make good music these days.

Top pub, venue and eatery?

Bath is awesome for food. Thoughtful Bread Company do the best bacon sourdough sandwich in Bath, it's insane. I love Chelsea Road Cafe too, they do *the best* breakfast in the whole of Bath. Pub-wise, probably Bath Brew House or Colonna & Hunter and in the day I like to hang at Colonna & Small's. There's so much choice though.

Share a favourite spot in the city

In the summer, hanging out at Parade Gardens or in Victoria Park, and in the winter I love the vibe of the Christmas markets and Bath on Ice. Oh, and watching the fireworks from Bath Farm is a dream.

How do you relax?

I love to go to the movies. My favourite place is the Little Cinema; you can sit on a sofa and watch a film, that's epic.

What's next on the events calendar?

My calendar is pretty studio based at the moment, with new tracks coming out every two or three weeks now for the next couple of months. After that I will start going back out live again with a new set and will definitely be getting some shows in the diary.

Surprise us...

After an embarrassing amount of practice, I, like Daniel Radcliffe, can play the *Match of the Day* theme tune by slapping on my cheeks. **BL**

Stefansson's debut single, *Start Again*, is available for free download at: www.soundcloud.com/stefanssonofficial

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